

French premier shakes up cabinet

PARIS (AP) — Conservative Prime Minister Alain Juppe reshuffled his cabinet on Tuesday, less than a week before a major parliamentary debate on painful budget cuts. The new cabinet includes 16 ministers and 16 secretaries of state, down from a total of 41 in the old cabinet. The government said it wanted a streamlined team to begin tackling tough problems such as trimming France's huge budget deficit. The new team, however, includes only four new faces. International said recently it was concerned by serious and systematic human rights violations in Tunisia. The group's worries were fuelled by the crushing of the country's Islamist movement in 1992 and the arrest last month of Mohammed Moada, president of the Socialist Democrats Movement (MDS). Mr. Ben Ali denounced "the dangerous deviationism of some human rights professionals and some organisations which became simple mongers of lies and allegations from extremists. The human rights problem... must no more be left in the hands of the lovers of speeches and statements to the press," he said in his speech at a ceremony in Carthage presidential palace.

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Bomb hoax on RJ flight

VIENNA (Agencies) — A Royal Jordanian (RJ) airliner forced to make an emergency landing in Vienna on Tuesday after receiving a bomb threat was given the all-clear by Austrian police after a thorough search. "The search is over and is negative," said an interior ministry spokesman. The aircraft resumed its flight to Amman later in the day and was due in Amman at 00:25 Wednesday, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. "The people want to go home, after all," he said. The Lockheed TriStar wide-bodied jet, en route from Chicago to Amman via Amsterdam, was over former Yugoslavia when the alarm was raised. According to the official, there were 229 passengers on board the aircraft. In Amman, an RJ official said the airline had received an anonymous call "warning that a bomb was on the plane," adding that the pilot was ordered to land in Vienna as a precaution. The Vienna airport police superintendent Alfred Rupp said the bomb threat had been received by telephone in Amsterdam and passed to Amman, which radioed the plane to turn back and land in Vienna. Amid turmoil in the Middle East following the assassination of Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin, first reports said the RJ flight had been hijacked in mid-air. An Israeli radio monitor who listened in on the cockpit communications said, however, there had been no talk of a hijack threat.

Peres asks Japan for help with highway

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres asked Japan on Tuesday to help finance a highway for the Palestinians between the Gaza Strip and West Bank, his office said. Mr. Peres made the request during a meeting with Japan's Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, who attended the funeral here Monday of assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. A highway link, crossing Israel, between self-ruled Gaza and the West Bank where autonomy is to be expanded would help the Palestinians and the peace process, he said. Mr. Kono reaffirmed Japan's commitment to the Middle East peace process, recalling its decision to send observers for Palestinian self-rule elections and to help build two new bridges over the Jordan River. He also thanked Israel for its support for Japan's efforts to secure a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

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Self-rule back on track

Peres vows to press ahead and resumes implementation of Sept. 28 agreement

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAEL FORGED ahead with negotiations on Palestinian self-rule on Tuesday after reassuring Arabs that assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had not also killed Middle East peace. The government said it was preparing to clamp down on extreme-right incitement to political violence and punish isolated incidents of rioting over Mr. Rabin's murder by a Jewish militant at a peace rally on Saturday night. "I shall continue the process of peace that we have started," acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres told reporters after meeting British Prime Minister John Major, one of dozens of foreign leaders at Mr. Rabin's state funeral on Monday. Mr. Peres said Israeli troops resumed work on withdrawing from Palestinian towns and villages in the West Bank on Tuesday morning. Syria, Israel's most power-

ful remaining Arab adversary, sent conciliatory signals. The official daily Al Baath urged Mr. Peres to reactivate peace talks and said Mr. Rabin's assassination had left the Middle East with a greater need for peace. In a display of business as usual, Israeli and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials resumed handover talks in Jenin, the first West Bank town to be transferred to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) since self-rule began in Gaza and Jericho 18 months ago. Twelve Palestinian police officers arrived in Jenin. "Twelve officers who will take part in joint Israel-Palestinian patrols arrived Tuesday in Jenin," said PLO representative in Jenin Musa Qadara. So far a total of 42 officers have arrived in Jenin since the start of the Israeli army redeployment on Oct. 25. PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Mr. Peres agreed at their last meeting in Erez on Oct.

15 to complete the Jenin withdrawal by Nov. 19. Five other towns are to be evacuated under the deal, to allow Palestinian elections to go ahead, while troops will remain in Hebron. Mr. Peres, who took over after the assassination, began handling business from the prime minister's office on Tuesday. Government spokesman Uri Dromi said he expected President Ezer Weizman to ask Mr. Peres to form a new government after the traditional Jewish week of mourning ends next Sunday. Economics Minister Yossi Beilin, a close Peres ally, told Reuters he hoped the centre-left government would broaden its parliamentary base by bringing in moderate religious parties. Mr. Rabin's last peace deal with the PLO scraped through the 120-seat Knesset by a single vote. Political analysts said it would be hard to push through a peace deal with Syria involving a with-

drawal from the Golan Heights. Mr. Beilin discouraged speculation that Mr. Peres might seek to bring forward the next general election, due on Oct. 29, 1996, to capitalise on the huge wave of sympathy for Mr. Rabin. "Why should we advance the elections after what happened? Why should we give a prize to the assassins, that they can stop everything by killing the prime minister?" he said. Mr. Peres was more cautious, saying: "For us the main consideration is the peace process and not the term of the government. I said yesterday (Monday) and I shall repeat it that for us to win peace is more important than even to win the election." The acting premier dismissed Palestinian fears that the West Bank handover and troop redeployment would be delayed.

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Peres seeks 'peace cabinet'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — New Israeli premier Shimon Peres on Tuesday began behind the scenes talks to set up a new government determined to carry on the peace legacy of slain leader Yitzhak Rabin. Mr. Peres, acting premier since Mr. Rabin was gunned down on Saturday, started initial talks with outgoing ministers and party representatives, especially the religious movements, to boost the government coalition. President Ezer Weizman is due in the coming days to officially charge Mr. Peres with forming a new government, and the right-wing opposition Likud Party has said it would not oppose his appointment. Sources close to Mr. Peres said it seemed likely he would appoint 53-year-old Interior Minister Ehud Barak, a former chief of staff, as his foreign or defence minister. "Peres will probably name Ehud Barak as soon as next week as defence or foreign minister," one source told AFP asking to remain anonymous. It would help him form the necessary military-political alliance needed to win over the generals to the politics of peace which he enjoyed with

Mr. Rabin, also a former chief of staff, for the past three years. At the state funeral on Monday at Mount Herzl military cemetery, Mr. Peres vowed the peace process, which cost Mr. Rabin his life would go on. True to his word on Tuesday he was set to put the autonomy deal with the Palestinians back on course by resuming the Israeli army withdrawal on the West Bank, after it was temporarily halted following Mr. Rabin's assassination. His office said the pullback from six Palestinian towns, which began in Jenin on Oct. 25, was resuming on Tuesday. He pledged on the U.S. television network CBS: "We should be serious in our implementation of our commitment" toward the Palestinians. "We should continue with our redeployment." But one source close to him said that Mr. Peres will not be able to make daring decisions in the peace process "because he doesn't inspire confidence in the same way as he whom we called Mr. Security" — Mr. Rabin. "Peres and Rabin were a driving couple. Without

Rabin it will be more difficult," Tourism Minister Uzi Baram told AFP. For many in the Labour Party, thrown into turmoil with the death of its leader, only Mr. Barak could come close to working in the same tandem with Mr. Peres as the previous partnership with Mr. Rabin. Already Mr. Peres seemed to be grooming Mr. Barak for the post when late Monday the two men met with King Hussein. Three weeks ago Mr. Peres told AFP: "Barak will take over from Rabin, when the day comes." Mr. Barak, a reserve army general, is the most decorated soldier in the military history of Israel. Described by one of the country's legendary figures, General Moshe Doyan, as "the most courageous Jewish soldier," he took part in all the commando operations carried out by Israel in the past 30 years. Another candidate for a cabinet post is the head of the powerful trade union body Histadrut, Haim Ramon, who turned his back on Labour in 1993 and set up an independent list.

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American Congress shows its support for peace

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. Congress adopted a resolution Monday honouring slain Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and reaffirmed its support for a "just and lasting peace" in the Middle East. "We could not prevent this senseless assassination," said Representative Patricia Schroeder, a Democrat from Colorado. "But we can prevent the killing of his dream, and we must now work even more vigorously to bring peace to the region that has known so little." Rep. Barney Frank also urged continuation of the peace process in an emotional speech on the house floor. "I have not felt sadder than on this day," the Massachusetts Democrat said. "It's not just a murder, it's an assault on the democratic state of Israel. We must repudiate this effort and work to keep Israel on the path toward peace." On another congressional front, a fierce critic of aid to the Palestinians has dropped his opposition to temporarily extending the assistance in the wake of Mr. Rabin's violent death.

Michael Forbes of New York, backed by a top congressional leader in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, had vowed to fight an extension of the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act, which helps fund Palestinian self-government authorities. The law had expired and was not renewed due to an unrelated political squabble. Then was passed in the Senate late last week. Mr. Forbes fought the bill's passage in the House due to his opposition to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat. But after Mr. Rabin's assassination Saturday in Tel Aviv, Mr. Forbes said his reservations should be taken up "at a more appropriate time." The extension of the facilitation act, which also would allow the PLO to continue operating a Washington office, would last only through Dec. 1. It was agreed to only after Republican Senator Jesse Helms got assurances that Democrats would negotiate with him on an unrelated piece of legislation — calling for a controversial reorganisation of the State Depart-

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Ben Ali slams rights groups, vows reform

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali on Tuesday strongly rejected international criticism of the country's human rights record and announced limited democracy reforms. Mr. Ben Ali described some human rights groups as "mongers of lies" in a speech marking the eighth anniversary of coming to office. "Living in a state of law, and where freedoms are respected, we have no lessons to receive from anyone," he said. Amnesty International said recently it was concerned by serious and systematic human rights violations in Tunisia. The group's worries were fuelled by the crushing of the country's Islamist movement in 1992 and the arrest last month of Mohammed Moada, president of the Socialist Democrats Movement (MDS). Mr. Ben Ali denounced "the dangerous deviationism of some human rights professionals and some organisations which became simple mongers of lies and allegations from extremists. The human rights problem... must no more be left in the hands of the lovers of speeches and statements to the press," he said in his speech at a ceremony in Carthage presidential palace.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan with the family of the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Tel Aviv on Tuesday (photo by Boghos)

Crown Prince visits W. Jerusalem to convey condolences over Rabin

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday paid a short visit to West Jerusalem to pay condolences to the widow of assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and to meet acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Mr. Peres, who welcomed Crown Prince Hassan, described the Crown Prince's visit as very significant and meant a great deal for the bereaved family and the whole Israeli society. The peace process and the latest developments in the region as well as the outcome of the Middle East and North Africa economic summit in Amman late last month were at the centre of the Crown

Prince's talks with Mr. Peres, Jordan Television said. The Crown Prince and Mr. Peres stressed that the assassination of Mr. Rabin would only encourage supporters of peace on the two sides to double their efforts. Paying tribute to the assassinated prime minister, Prince Hassan said: "Yitzhak Rabin played a main role in the peacemaking process for this region." "For me, it is an extremely moving moment to visit Jerusalem for the first time... who could have imagined these circumstances," he told reporters after flying in by helicopter to be greeted by Mr. Peres. "It is a great source of

privilege and honour for me to be here today to honour the memory" of Rabin, the Prince told journalists. He expressed "deep horror and revulsion" over Mr. Rabin's murder by a Jewish extremist at a peace rally on Saturday. "The words of the prime minister's granddaughter touched all of us in Jordan deeply," said the prince referring to the tear-jerking words of Noa Ben Arzi of the state funeral on Monday. Mr. Peres voiced "deep appreciation" over the visit by Prince Hassan, who had lunch in Jerusalem with the new prime minister before

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Arafat calls on Israel to fight Jewish extremism

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat urged Israel on Tuesday to crack down on Jewish extremists and warned that the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin could threaten the peace process. But the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman said he was assured by U.S. and French leaders that acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres would go ahead as planned with Israel's pullout from West Bank towns and villages. At a meeting of Palestinian businessmen Tuesday in Cairo, Mr. Arafat condemned Mr. Rabin's assassination as "a horrendous and dangerous crime" that could harm the fragile peace process. "We consider this dangerous crime a living example for whom we have always warned against that is encouraging forces of ex-

tremsm and violence who are working against peace," he said. He said: "I would like to draw your attention to this serious incident, which will have massive repercussions on the peace process and its contents." "We regard this assassination as the embodiment of everything we warned against: the encouragement of extremist forces and strengthening of violent tendencies which characterise the actions of settlers and enemies of peace." He added: "We are all of us looking to it as a very serious crime, but we hope that Peres will have the ability and the capability to continue the peace process according to the schedule of the Washington agreement." Mr. Arafat urged the Israeli government to take steps against those Israeli extremists opposed to the

Israel-PLO accords. "This crime should not be passed without notice," he said at a news conference after the meeting. "These extremist Israeli elements should be dealt with by the Israeli government." Mr. Arafat arrived in Cairo earlier in the day and met with President Hosni Mubarak, who attended Mr. Rabin's funeral in West Jerusalem. Mr. Mubarak, who has been a mediator in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, also briefed Mr. Arafat on his meeting with President Clinton and Mr. Peres following the funeral Monday. About 30 Palestinian businessmen living abroad planned to attend the three-day meeting. The gathering, which began Tuesday, was sponsored by the Arab League for businessmen hop-

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Israelis flock to Rabin's tomb to express sorrow, pay homage

Combined agency dispatches

THOUSANDS OF Israelis flocked Tuesday to the freshly-dug grave of their slain leader Yitzhak Rabin after world leaders had paid their last respects at his state funeral. As they filed past the grave in the Mount Herzl military cemetery, they placed wreaths, single roses, candles and messages of farewell, love and hope on the ground. "Kill violence, not Jews," read one anonymous message resting on the grave, while others were piled up around a marble plaque at the Great of the Nation square where Mr. Rabin was buried Monday. "Forgive the hatred of others," read another. Another said: "We are alone, but you showed us the path of peace." Some messages of farewell were written in pebbles on nearby tombs. At the graveside young soldiers still in shock watched the orderly crowd file past, while about 50 held a prayer service nearby.

With tears in her eyes, an 18-year-old doing her national service said she could only pay her last respects on Tuesday because she had been on duty before. "I was at the peace rally in Tel Aviv and like thousands of young people with me, we will never be able to forget that a Jew came that evening to kill our symbol of peace," Mr. Rabin was gunned down by a Jewish fanatic just after he delivered a stirring message of peace on Saturday to 100,000 Israelis in the Tel Aviv main square gathered for the "yes to peace, not to violence" rally. "The young are thirsty for peace. If the assassin was hoping to block the peace process, we have to show the world that he has completely failed in his goal," she added. "Rabin's death will only strengthen our desire for peace," she added glancing sorrowfully at the grave. In the shadow of the pine trees overlooking Mr. Rabin's final resting place, some young people were reading psalms to the glory of

"the hero of peace" led by a rabbi. "We came to pay homage to a great man of Israel, but how do we express our outrage when a Jew kills another Jew?" said Avraham, 21. Some of the notes were carefully penned, others hastily scribbled on pieces of paper torn out of school books. All expressed sorrow, but some voiced hope. "Israel is in pain," "Love, admiration and sorrow" or even just a simple "thank you, sorry." "Love will overcome," said one in a child's scribble. "All the Jews have to look into their hearts and expel violence from it," said another. U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy on Monday placed on Mr. Rabin's coffin earth taken from the grave of his brother John, the former U.S. president assassinated in November 1963. One old man standing alone away from the crowds said: "It was good what Ken-

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Rabat: No Sahara referendum if new conditions are set

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco said on Monday he would pull out of a U.N. referendum in the disputed Western Sahara and hold on to the territory "until kingdom come" if conditions of the peace process were not upheld to the letter.

"We adhere to the peace plan and nothing but the peace plan and if that plan is not respected then we do not want a referendum," the king said in a television and radio broadcast.

"We are committed to the peace process that was adopted by the U.N. Security Council... if there is any attempt to skip over some of the conditions stipulated in the peace process, then there will be no referendum," he said.

"We want our adversaries to know that we want the referendum as it was set up by the United Nations. If it is not respected to the letter then let everyone stay where they are until kingdom come. We are in our desert... some of us are drinking water, some of us eat fruit juice, living within the law in peace and tranquility and respect for human rights."

The king spoke on the 20th anniversary of the "green

March," when he led 350,000 Moroccan men and women waving flags and copies of the Koran to the former Spanish colony to lay Morocco's symbolic claim to the territory.

Within days, Spain handed administration of the territory to Morocco and Mauritania.

The final status of the Western Sahara is to be decided in a much-delayed U.N. referendum under terms agreed after a 1991 ceasefire which ended nearly 20 years of fighting between Moroccan troops and the Algerian-backed Polisario Front.

The king's remarks appeared a response to new proposals by the U.N. secretary-general on procedures to vet 100,000 people on a list of voters presented by Morocco.

The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) has been compiling a voter list on the basis of a 1974 Spanish census and the Moroccan list falls outside that category.

The Moroccan government was angered that the new U.N. proposals suggested using Spanish documents as proof of eligibility rather than

the laborious process of interviews before a panel that requires "sheikhs" or elders from both sides to be present.

Voter registration was halted on Friday after a Polisario delegation refused to go through metal detectors installed by the Moroccans at Laayoun airport saying this violated their diplomatic immunity, a U.N. source said.

The referendum, which would decide whether the territory is united with Morocco or becomes independent as sought by the Polisario, was delayed repeatedly because of arguments on who is eligible to vote.

The Polisario has accused Morocco of padding the voter list to guarantee a vote in its favour.

King Hassan was scheduled to head anniversary celebrations in the Saharan capital Laayoun but he was unable to make the controversial trip because of ill health.

The 66-year-old king, who was taken to hospital with pneumonia two weeks ago while in New York, said circumstances had robbed him of a chance to revisit Western Sahara but that he still hoped to go soon.



CROWN PRINCE MEETS PERES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan with acting Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres in West Jerusalem on Tuesday when the Crown Prince was there to convey condolences to Israel and the family of the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (see page one) (Photo by Boghos)

66 freed in Turkey after law is changed

ANKARA (AFP) — Sixty-six people jailed for spreading separatist propaganda have been released since parliament amended a controversial anti-terrorism law, the Turkish foreign ministry said Tuesday.

Amendments approved Oct. 27 reduce prison sentences for those found guilty of conducting separatist Kurdish propaganda, and allow state security court judges to suspend sentences or convert them to fines.

A ministry spokesman said the release of prisoners "proves that the amendment to article 8 (the anti-terrorism law) is not purely cosmetic." Human rights critics however charge the amendments do not go far enough.

Under the changes voted by parliament, "separatist propaganda" remains a crime against the state but cuts the maximum jail term from five to three years.

The Turkish parliament accepted the changes as part of democratic reforms Ankara hopes will pave the way for Turkey's planned customs union with the European Union, which has yet to be ratified by the European Parliament.

Euro-MPs have linked progress in democratic reforms with Turkey's entry into the customs union, which, if realised, would provide Turkey with privileged ties to the EU.

Jews urge worldwide ban against hate talk

NEW YORK (R) — From Brooklyn synagogues to West Bank settlements, Jews searched their souls on Monday, asking whether the rhetoric of hate that has accompanied every step of the peace process led to the murder of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

For months, Jews in the United States, Israel and elsewhere have been indiscriminately coupling criticism of the peace process with savage attacks on the Israeli leader, calling him a murderer, a traitor and even a Jewish Hitler.

Now with his assassination, the "people of the Book" are worrying deeply about the effects of their words.

In a mass soul-searching, many Jewish leaders, regardless of political persuasion, are calling for the ugly rhetoric to stop and for people on both sides of the ideological divide to recognise the sincerity of their opponents.

They charge that the ugly words accompanying Mr. Rabin's peace efforts created a climate of hate that paved the way for a Jew to kill the only Israeli prime minister born in Jerusalem.

And they wonder what happens next if the rhetoric goes unchecked. More killings? An end to the peace process? Civil war among Jews?

In a search for people to blame for rhetorical excesses, many U.S. Jews pointed at a prominent 72-year-old orthodox rabbi in Brooklyn

who last June gave a religious justification for murdering Mr. Rabin — an argument he recanted in a letter of apology just days before the Israeli leader's murder.

In remarks widely reported in the Jewish press, Rabbi Abraham Hecht cited a religious law that allows a person to be killed who "willfully, consciously (or) intentionally bands over human bodies or human property to an alien people."

Rabbi Hecht quoted the revered medieval Jewish scholar Maimonides as saying of such a person, "if a man kills him, he has done a good deed."

Rabbi Hecht, who was not available for comment on Monday, had already apologized for his comments, saying in a letter to Mr. Rabin late last month: "I wish to repudiate any words and actions of anger and which have caused hurt."

Many Jewish leaders said the killing showed that the "verbal" violence that has accompanied Mr. Rabin's peace efforts had clearly gotten out of hand.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel told Reuters on Saturday: "What worries me is the hatred. We knew there was a great debate between those who wanted peace and those who did not. And now you see the results — the face of hatred and the face of death."

Mr. Wiesel is a prominent supporter of Mr. Rabin's peace efforts. But his sentiments were echoed even by

those who strongly opposed Mr. Rabin's course.

"A word is a word, a deed is a deed. But words lead to deeds. Every time I heard someone cry out that Rabin was a traitor, I felt I had to get up and denounce that incendiary language," said New York Rabbi Avi Weiss, who has led protests against Israel's making peace with Yasser Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) around the world.

Mr. Weiss said in 1994 when police in Oslo, Norway, were about to arrest him at a demonstration, he asked them to wait while he tried to stop someone from burning an effigy of Mr. Rabin.

On Sunday, Mr. Weiss led a memorial service in tribute to Mr. Rabin attended by 400 people and his voice broke when he started to say a prayer that began, "May God remember the soul of the prime minister of Israel."

"It was like saying the State of Israel had been shot. I can't sleep because all I can think is that we have stooped to this level. We have to replace the hatred with love, otherwise we can't live. The level of rhetoric is unacceptable on both sides. The right has to stop screaming that Rabin is a traitor and the left has to stop accusing the right of being at one with the militant Muslim group Hamas. The true test of love is to show respect to the people with whom you disagree."

Kuwait government assails probe into Iraqi invasion

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwaiti government on Tuesday dismissed as one-sided a report by the parliamentary opposition blaming ministers for the emirate's rapid fall to Iraqi invasion forces in 1990.

It said the probe by an assembly committee, one of the opposition-dominated parliament's sharpest jabs at the government led by the ruling Sabah family, had provided no evidence for its criticisms and ignored government achievements.

Deputies defended the report as balanced and lenient.

"The committee judged the situation based on what was — in the end — a surprise to everybody and not on what is recorded in its report as facts," said a government statement published in Al Watan, Al Qabas and Al Anba newspapers.

The report said it was not convinced with explanations provided by some senior officials — but it did not provide any reference or confidential source or specialised authority supporting its "correct" vision, the government said.

Iraq invaded in August 1990 after months of disputes with Kuwait about oil, financial aid and the border. A U.S.-led multinational force liberated the country in February 1991.

Ahmad Bager, chairman of the inquiry, told reporters the committee had followed its mandate scrupulously, had provided plenty of evidence of failings while also being constructive.

"Our report is very lenient. It's not tough. We didn't ask for anyone's removal or to send any one to court," he said.

Inquiry member and opposition Deputy Abdullah Nibari said: "I don't think the committee overstepped its mandate... the government would like to see this event

put behind us."

The 50-seat parliament is due to debate the inquiry into the government's handling of the crisis.

Its findings issued in August accuse ministers of big mistakes in handling relations with Iraq in the weeks before the invasion and of being ill-prepared to defend the country.

Some deputies want to use the issue to put the government on the defensive before October 1996 parliamentary elections. One Islamist has called for leading ministers to accept responsibility for their alleged mistakes and resign.

The government said the committee had exceeded its mandate, which was to collect facts on which to base future improvements in government decision-making and crisis management.

Instead it had selected facts to support its preferred conclusion. It had ignored the government's role in creating an international consensus that had helped bring about critical U.N. Security Council resolutions requiring Iraq's withdrawal.

The government has always strongly denied it was at fault in the crisis that led up to the invasion. It says that Kuwait was simply betrayed by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The report's criticism that Kuwait was wrong to discard a military option was illogical, the government said. Military confrontation between Kuwait and Iraq would have been "catastrophic" since Iraq's army greatly outnumbered Kuwait's.

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"Our report is very lenient. It's not tough. We didn't ask for anyone's removal or to send any one to court," he said.

Inquiry member and opposition Deputy Abdullah Nibari said: "I don't think the committee overstepped its mandate... the government would like to see this event

Abuse against women, children increases in Sudan

By Evelyn Leopold
Reuter

UNITED NATIONS — Slavery, abductions, torture and rape, mainly by government security forces, have increased in Sudan despite international protests, according to a U.N. report released on Monday.

Gaspar Biro, the U.N. special rapporteur for human rights for Sudan, said there had been an alarming increase in the number of reports and information from a variety of sources on cases of "slavery, servitude and forced labour."

"Some of the boys abducted from southern

Sudan, as well as those rounded up from the streets of northern towns, are used as servants, while the girls become concubines or wives, mainly of soldiers," he said.

Children, usually black Africans, whether in the south or the north, are often, are often rounded up and then distributed to wealthy Sudanese as workers or servants, sometimes after they are sent to Islamic education groups.

Medicine, food and clothing are used to force people to convert to Islam from Christianity or other religions, according to the report.

"The inactivity and the

total disregard by the government of the call upon it by the competent U.N. organs during the past two years cannot but lead to the conclusion that the practice of the sale of and traffic in children meets with the tacit approval of the government of Sudan," Mr. Biro said.

His report, compiled from interviews in neighbouring countries, covers the first eight months of 1995 and is among the harshest ever. He has been denied entry to Sudan.

Such reports, which embarrass governments publicly, often have an impact on international aid and credits.

Sudan, which strongly criticised western values at September's U.N. Women's Conference in Beijing, was also accused of abusing and violating the rights of women on a persistent basis.

Unlimited powers are granted to police forces and "people's committees" to preserve the "moral health of the society," the report said.

Other examples include: — In the town of Lobonok, the local population was forced to convert to Islam. Those who refused were killed and one 12-year-old girl was raped by 12 soldiers in uniform. — Prison conditions are

appalling and many women are malnourished, ill and sometimes raped.

— In August, a number of offices and homes of businessmen were raided and their fax machines confiscated because they did not have government permission to use them.

— Five Khartoum University student demonstrators were killed by security forces in September who opened fire on them. International appeals were fruitless.

— Journalists, local and foreign, are harassed, arrested or forced into exile for anti-government reports.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
14:30	Inspector Gadigi
14:30	Ghost Writers
15:00	Tomorrow's World
15:30	Amazing Stories
16:00	Low Lucy
16:30	Tarzan
17:00	Children's Programme — Truc-tiles
17:30	Jeux
19:00	News in French
19:15	Magazine — Sports Et Musique
19:30	News Headlines
19:30	Anything for a Laugh
20:30	Doc. — Amazing Races
20:30	The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15	Star Trek
22:00	News in English
22:25	Prim
22:45	Drama — Law and Order
23:45	Doc. — Silk Road
00:30	Second Thoughts
PRAYER TIMES	
04:34	Fajr
05:48	Sunrise (Duba)
11:19	Dhuhr
14:19	Asr
16:45	Maghrib
18:04	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweithel, Tel. 810740	

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637765	
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624590	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De In Salle Church Tel. 661757	Terrace Church Tel. 622466
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	Anglican Church Tel. 630851
623543	Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 713361	St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256	Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 623328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654032
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675591	The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Cold weather conditions will prevail with temperatures dropping further. Skies will be partly cloudy to cloudy with rain expected in all parts of the Kingdom with winds westerly active. In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy with a	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
chance of scattered showers, winds southerly active and seas rough.	Min./Max. temp. 10/16
Aqaba 15/23	Desert 08/18
Jordan Valley 14/22	Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25 Aqaba 30. Humidity readings: Amman 70 per cent, Aqaba 70 per cent.
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	Dr. Nidal Al As'ad 751672
Dr. Youssef Al Faqih 790104	Dr. Mazen Nhalil 830433
Dr. Abdul Rabin Mustafa 744865	Fira pharmacy 641912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336	Al Asma pharmacy 637855
Nairookh pharmacy 623672	Al Salim pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945	Shamsi pharmacy 677604
Nairookh pharmacy 623672	Najih pharmacy 847632
IRBID:	Dr. Ali Al Qamri 272152
AL Quds pharmacy (—)	
ZARQA:	Dr. Randa Shabin 985710
Khalil pharmacy 985417	
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre 637111	Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341	Civil Defence Emergency 194
Rescue Police 192 621111, 637777	Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 731321	Highway Police 643402
Traffic Police 896390	Public Security Department 630321
Price Complaints 605800	Water and Sewerage 661176
Complaints 897467	Amman Municipality 767111
Telephone Information 773111	Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 681101	Jordan Electricity Authority 812615
Electric Power Company 636381	
RJ Flight Information 186-53200	Queen Alia Intl. Airport 186-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	Hussein Medical Centre 81101302
Khalil Maternity, J. Amn 6428416	Malhas, J. Amman 6361401
Palestine, Shmezzani 607071	Shmezzani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 143345	Al-Mushter Hospital 6672709
The Islamic, Abdali 66612707	Al-Ahli, Abdali 6661666
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7710103	Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 77511126
Army, Al-Marka 89161115	Queen Alia Hospital 60224950
Amal Hospital 674155	The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 845199
ZARQA:	Zarqa Govt. Hospital 10998323
Zarqa National Hospital 10998323	On Sima Hospital 09986732
Al-Hama Modern Hospital 10998690	IBRD:
Floussa Basm Hospital 02525555	Guest Catholic Hospital 02527275
Im Al-Nafes Hospital 02527700	AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03314111	

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
09:50	Cairo (MS)
10:30	Jeddah (SV)
12:15	Karachi, Al-Dhahbi (PK)
14:20	Sanaa (YV)
20:00	Beirut (ME)
20:10	Larnaca (CY)
22:05	Athens (GA)
22:25	Amsterdam (KL)
23:30	London (BA)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:30	Aqaba (RJ)
08:00	Aqaba (RJ)
08:35	Jeddah (RJ)
09:00	Larnaca (RJ)
09:55	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30	New Delhi (RJ)
13:30	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:40	Istanbul (RJ)
16:45	Frankfurt (RJ)
17:00	Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
18:00	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:05	Brussels, Vienna (RJ)
18:25	Rome (RJ)
19:05	London, Berlin (RJ)
22:45	Aqaba (RJ)
23:20	Beirut (RJ)
00:10	Cairo (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
07:45	Beirut (ME)
09:15	London (KL)
10:30	Cairo (MS)
11:25	Jeddah (SV)
13:25	Al-Dhahbi, Karachi (PK)
15:20	Sharjah (AH)
21:00	Sanaa (YV)
22:05	Larnaca (CY)
00:25	Amsterdam (KL)

9:30-9 Athens (OA)
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HIJAZ RAILWAY

TRAIN

Dep. Amman	8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus	9:30 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus	7:00 a.m. every Tuesday
Arr. Amman	5:00 p.m. every Tuesday

MARKET PRICES

Uppermarket price in fils per kg.

Apple	700/30
Banana	600/20
Banana (M. banana)	600/20
Cabbage	160/100
Carrot	330/250
Cauliflower	170/100
Cucumber	170/100
Cucumbers (small)	330/120
Eggplant	150/90
Garlic	750/600
Grapes	700/500
Grapefruit	210/140
Lemon	220/180
Marrow (large)	80/50
Marrow (small)	160/120
Olives (green)	330/420
Olives (green)	330/420
Onion (dry)	220/150
Orange	600/340
Pepper (hot)	180/140
Pepper (sweet)	180/100
Potato	330/280
Radish	150/100
Spinach	150/100
String Beans	650/430
Tangerine	250/160

Home News

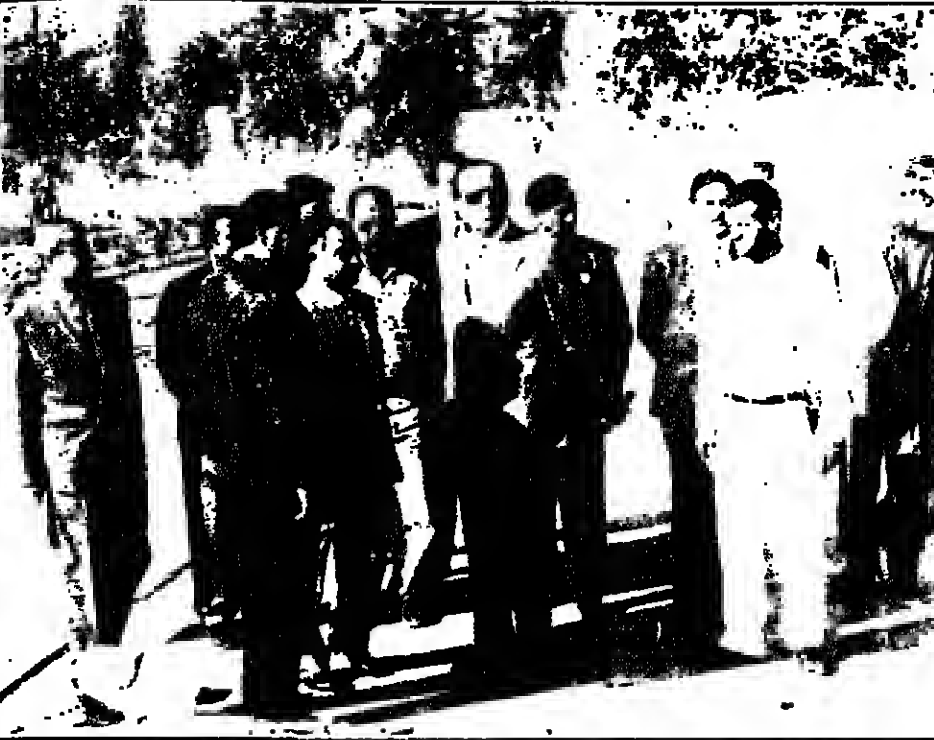
Crown Prince praises performance of official media at MENA summit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday sent a message to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khaled Karaki expressing appreciation of the information services' distinguished performance during the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit held here late last month.

"It is my pleasure to express my pride in the Jordanian media and to voice my deep thanks for your efforts in organising and executing information plans and arrangements and the excellent coverage of the event," said Prince Hassan.

The excellent and objective performance of the information and media services during the meetings reflected a positive image of the Kingdom, said Prince Hassan adding that these efforts were a source of pride which will be long remembered as evidence of Jordan's potential to handle important events at the international level.

The Crown Prince requested that the minister convey his gratitude to all the information and media staff working for radio, television, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the Ministry of Information, the Press and Publication Department and the Jordanian press.



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday is briefed by Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi on landscaping projects around the Prime Ministry (Petra photo)

Sharif Zeid checks on landscaping projects at ministry grounds

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday inspected work in progress on a statue of His Majesty King Hussein being erected on the grounds of the Prime Ministry to mark the King's 60th birthday.

The prime minister voiced the government's appreciation of the project which is being undertaken by the Amman Municipality and the efforts exerted to finish the work in time for the Nov. 14 anniversary.

When completed the brass statue will weigh nine tonnes and stand seven and a half metres tall by the Fourth Circle. It will be supported by a four-metre high pedestal, according to the municipality.

Earlier this year, the municipality worked on relandscaping the gardens around the Prime Ministry. The improvements to the gardens included the construction of a spacious yard with water fountains that will surround the statue.

Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi accompanied the Prime Minister on his inspection tour.

Dr. Abbadi has endorsed a programme of festivities which is to be carried out on Nov. 11 and include a procession starting from the Parliament house through King Hussein Street and ending at Hasbani Plaza near the Roman Amphitheatre.

Municipality sources said that nearly 12,000 people in traditional Jordanian costumes, 1,000 from each of the Kingdom's governorates, will take part in the parade, in addition to 4,000 scouts and girl guides, 4,000 school children, 1,000 students from universities and community colleges and 1,000 from the Federation of Jordanian Labour unions as well as 500 farmers.

The Jordanian Armed Forces, the security services and the Royal Jordanian Armed Forces Brass Band will also march in the event.

According to the municipality, four large traditional bedouin tents will be pitched up along the route. Meanwhile, the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) announced Tuesday that as of Nov. 13, GUVS teams will be visiting needy families, kindergartens, orphanages and senior citizens homes to distribute gifts.

Sharif Zeid, visiting Bahraini minister review cooperation in energy fields

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday met with visiting Bahraini Minister of Electricity and Water Abdullah Jumaa and said he was deeply satisfied with the progress in Bahraini-Jordanian cooperation in economic and technical fields.

Sharif Zeid added that Jordan is intent on bolstering its ties with the Arab countries in various fields and will exert all possible efforts to safeguard pan-Arab interests.

After the meeting, attended by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazah and the Bahraini delegation, Mr. Jumaa said that his talks with the Prime Minister covered bilateral relations and cooperation in electricity.

He also said he briefed Sharif Zeid on a tentative agreement which Bahrain reached with the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) on joint work in the fields of electricity and energy.

Earlier Tuesday Mr. Jumaa and Mr. Darwazah held official talks and decided to set up a follow up committee comprising three members from each country and to be chaired by JEA Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafeh.

The two sides discussed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in water and electricity matters which will be signed Thursday.

Dr. Ahmad Hiyasat, director of the JEA's International Services Department, outlined the two countries' cooperation in water and electricity which began in 1989.

He said two technicians from the Bahraini Ministry of Water and Electricity are currently receiving training at the JEA's training centre in the areas of maintenance of transformer stations within the framework of a programme financed by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Following the meeting with Mr. Darwazah, Mr. Jumaa said that his visit to Jordan aims at familiarising himself with the JEA's services and increasing cooperation between the two countries in power generation, maintenance and



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday meets with visiting Bahraini Minister of Electricity and Water to review cooperation in energy fields (Petra photo)

designing of electricity networks. The memorandum, which the two sides plan to sign tomorrow, aims at opening the way for the exchange of expertise in all matters related to electricity and electric power management, according to a JEA statement.

The memo entails exchanging visits by technicians and contacting Arab and foreign financial institutions to secure assistance for joint Jordanian-Bahraini projects.

Italy to grant Jordan \$1.2m in technical cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and Italian Ambassador to Jordan Romualdo Bettini Tuesday signed a letter for the concession of grants from the Italian government for 1.95 billion Italian liras (approximately \$1.2 million), within the framework of the technical cooperation agreement between Italy and Jordan, according to an Italian embassy statement.

These grants will be utilised for the Project for the Development of the Countryside of the Irbid region, the statement said.

Such a project will be carried out by the Italian organisation "Ricerca e Cooperazione" and the

Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF).

The Italian project aims at improving the economic and social levels of the farmers and the families living in the areas of Taybeh and Bani Kananeh, by creating jobs and improving income levels, so as to diminish rural-urban migration.

Two training centres will be created for the preparation of medium-size enterprises and handicrafts, for which the Italian government will cover the expenses, as well as the costs of the instruments and for the organisation of the training courses.

50 businessmen head for talks in Cairo

CAIRO (Petra) — A team of 50 businessmen from Jordan Wednesday will open a meeting with the Egyptian business community in Cairo on prospects for launching new joint ventures in industry, land reclamation and food production, according to Ghazi Batarese head of the Jordanian Commercial Centre here.

Mr. Batarese said the Egyptian business community, which will be represented by a 70-member team, will discuss with its Jordanian counterparts increasing trade exchanges which currently total around \$200 million annually, equally divided between the two sides.

He said the meeting is the first of the Jordanian-Egyptian Business Council to be held after the convening of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit held in Amman late last month.

The Jordanian delegation led by Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) Chairman Hamdi Tabba'a arrived in Cairo Tuesday afternoon.

The Egyptian side will be led by Saeed Tawel, head of the Egyptian Businessmen's Association.

Before his departure from Amman, Mr. Tabba'a said that the meeting will be the sixth by the joint business council and will last several days.

The two teams, he said, will submit working papers dealing with Jordanian-Egyptian economic relations.

The joint business council, which was created in 1985, he added, last met in Amman in April, 1993.

'Peace, Oh Peace' still to tour Israel, says Nabil Sawalha

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The continuance of the peace process in the immediate aftermath of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination is not only the cry of world leaders and politicians, but of artists too.

Nabil and Hisham Theatre company, which was due to travel to Israel last Sunday, will begin its tour just a week later with 14 performances scheduled over three weeks.

"The tour is still on. We cannot delay it for too long. Peace and normalisation must push on. To delay (the tour) too much would also contribute to the slowing up of the whole process," said Nabil Sawalha Tuesday.

Theatre owners Nabil Sawalha and Hisham Yanis, famed for their first political satire "Welcome, New World Order" that was launched in 1991, originally considered taking a play to Israel at the end of last year.

The show, "Peace, Oh Peace," is to be performed in Arabic in 10 Arab cities and twice in Arabic and twice in English in Tel Aviv.

Originally, a reception was to be held last Monday. Among the guest list was the late Mr. Rabin.

The Israeli authorities confirmed yesterday that the tour could start next Sunday and would include a meeting with Mr. Rabin's wife, Leah.

The title of the play "Peace, Oh Peace" is to be suffixed by "In memory of the peace makers."

Despite Mr. Rabin's assassination on Saturday night, Mr. Sawalha said that the play's content would not be changed.

"We will not be taking anything out of the play. It talks a lot about the stupidity of man, from which Rabin died," he said. "To remove references to Rabin would be an insult."

The play opens with Cain's killing of Abel and includes the visit of the late Anwar Sadat to Jerusalem, the peace talks in Madrid, the Oslo agreement, and skits portraying His Majesty King Hussein, Palestine National Authority (PNA) Chairman Yasser Arafat as well as Mr. Rabin, added Mr. Sawalha.

Referring to the company's specialisation in political satire, Mr. Sawalha stated that the company held no personal vendettas and

was neither standing in one camp nor another.

"We are copiers of life, all aspects of life. We put pictures in front of people. It's a good example of democracy," he said.

Earlier this year, Mr. Yanis, who co-writes the scripts and performs alongside Mr. Sawalha, received a letter from the Jordanian Writers' Association, in which he is a member.

The union, which is opposed to the normalisation of relations with Israel, wrote to Mr. Yanis regarding the company's proposed visit to the Jewish state and his appearance on Israeli television.

According to Mr. Sawalha, the letter questioned whether Mr. Yanis would perform in Israel and warned that if he did, his membership would be withdrawn.

Mr. Yanis responded to the association saying that he would be performing there.

No further exchange has taken place, said Mr. Sawalha.

"We really believe there is no alternative to peace. We believe, like Yasser Arafat, that you can only get your rights from direct contact," Mr. Sawalha told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Sawalha also believes that the majority of people are not perturbed by the actors' appearances on Israeli television or their performances in Israel.

"Every time we have been on Israeli television, more people have come to our theatre. Audiences noticeably increased."

Mr. Sawalha also said that by drawing closer to Israel, "the poison that has ruled our relationship" maybe drained away.

Nabil and Hisham Theatre Company also hopes that during their upcoming tour they will have an opportunity to perform in the West Bank and Gaza.

"We hope to do six shows in the West Bank, in Jerusalem and Ramallah. The initial enthusiasm for us to perform there came from the PNA Ministry of Culture, and there are other individuals who are excited and want us to perform the play there," Mr. Sawalha said.

He added that the company was awaiting a decision from the PNA as to whether it would be able to perform in the Palestinian self-rule areas.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

- "Cesar and Cleopatra," at the British Council at 7:00pm.

LECTURE

- "Jerusalem — Historical Facts and the Cheatings of the Present," in Arabic, by Dr. Ali Qlaibo at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- Works by Akram Abdel Jaber at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman.
- "The Birth of Movies," at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Works by Dodi Taba'a entitled "Variations Graphiques 93-95" at the French Cultural Centre.
- Protex 95 (Middle East Protection and Security Exhibition) and Building 95 (Middle East Building Exhibition) at Amman International Fair, Marj Al Hamam. (Tel. 688141)
- The Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project presents "Winds of Change" its fall exhibition at the Jerusalem Insurance Company in Shmeisani (Tel. 658696)

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Sri Lanka suspends top official in Jaffna region

COLOMBO (R) — The Sri Lankan government, preparing to send relief to Tamil refugees fleeing the Jaffna war, suspended its top administrator for the region Tuesday, accusing him of giving misleading reports of the situation.

Industries Minister C.V. Gooneratne told parliament that K. Ponnambalam was suspended for giving the government false reports on the refugees and food shortages in the northern Jaffna peninsula where troops are battling Tamil rebels.

In recent weeks, Mr. Ponnambalam has repeatedly reported food shortages among the refugees fleeing the fighting as well as citing civilian casualties caused by shelling and air attacks.

Mr. Ponnambalam, currently in Colombo to organise food supplies to the north, was not immediately available for comment.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga told a news conference earlier this year that Mr. Ponnambalam was a virtual hostage of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) when working in the rebel-held areas of the peninsula.

Last week, Mr. Ponnambalam said some 400,000 Tamils had fled their homes to avoid the fighting.

Western relief agencies have also put the refugee figure at between 300,000 and 400,000.

But Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar Monday put the number of people displaced at around 100,000.

He said the government was doing all it could to help the refugees, said by aid agencies to be facing starvation and disease.

The rebels have begun recruiting school children from new refugee camps to fill their ranks after heavy losses in recent clashes with government troops, aid workers and residents in rebel-held areas said Tuesday.

Government troops have reached the outskirts of Jaffna town after a two-week long push, fiercely resisted by the LTTE seeking a homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east.

The military estimates some 1,000 rebels have been killed in the fighting and puts its own losses at 221 killed and 536 wounded. More than 50,000 people have died in the 12-year war.



Two Sri Lankan policewomen search bags of Tamil travellers at a railway station. All travellers coming to or leaving Vavuniya are checked for hidden weapons (AFP photo)

Republicans build — and burn — bridges to entertainment world

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even as Republican moralists and candidates denounce smutty entertainment and greedy promoters, the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and a first-year congressman and one-time pop singer are quietly cultivating Hollywood types by promising to help their bottom line.

What Mr. Gingrich and Mr. Bono have recognised is that trade, technology and copyright issues transcend partisan ideology. Even liberal executives who contribute big money to Democrats try to maximise corporate profits.

The two Republicans leading the outreach effort do not quite fit their party's staid, culturally conservative mold.

Mr. Bono is a product of Hollywood, Cher's long-haired hippie ex-husband and duet partner. Like Mr. Bono, Mr. Gingrich has been divorced. He's also uneasy about a Democrat's plan to police pornography on the Internet.

A measure of the chasm between Republicans and the entertainment industry is in campaign contributions from the film, recording, TV and cable industries.

In the 1993-94 election cycle, according to the good-government advocacy group Common Cause, industry donors of \$20,000 or more contributed \$1.8 million to Democratic committees for party-building activities; Republican committees got \$181,000.

Political developments this year haven't exactly complemented the Gingrich-Bono bridge-building project.

Mr. Delphe is a leader of the centre-left National Front for Change and Democracy that helped propose Mr. Aristide for president in 1990.

Mr. Aristide was elected to a five-year term and, under the constitution, cannot seek re-election until 2000.

Haiti sets election for Dec. 17

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Ending months of uncertainty over the political ambitions of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti said Monday it will hold presidential elections on Dec. 17.

Pierre Michel Sajous, president of the Provisional Electoral Council, said the council was slow to set a date because it wanted first "to assure that everything is in place."

Four of Haiti's five biggest political parties promised to boycott the ballot if it were organised by the current council, which they accuse of rigging June legislative elections to favour Mr. Aristide's Lavalas Platform Coalition. Only two candidates have said they will run.

"What a hoax the council is doing a rush job, with the obvious intention to put a Lavalas candidate into the president's office," said former President Leslie Manigat, head of the National Progressive Democratic Rally.

"There is no question of our participating in a phony election," added former Sen. Turneb Delphe. "The Electoral Council is not credible."

After decades of authoritarian governments, many Haitians believe their popularly elected president is stepping down reluctantly and only because Haiti is dependent on foreign aid. Before the army coup, Aristide was a harsh critic of U.S. imperialism. He toned down his rhetoric in exile.

Some Haitian officials said they doubt there is enough time to stage a credible election. U.N. elections experts had said it would take at least three months to arrange once a date is set.

"How can correct elections be held (even) in two months?" asked Sen. Jean-Robert Sabat, a former president of the Electoral Council. "We don't have the structure in place. We don't have the tradition."

The international community is paying the \$7.9 million election costs, including \$1.3 million from the United States.

The June 25 legislative elections were marred by voting irregularities. Tens of thousands of citizens were unable to cast ballots.

Makeup elections in July and September were boycotted by all the major parties except the three-party Lavalas coalition.

Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang told a news briefing when asked to comment on the report.

"All sorts of news is spread there to engage in speculation," Mr. Shen said. He did not elaborate on Mr. Deng's health.

Mr. Deng, 91, has retired from all official positions but remains influential. He has not been seen in public for more than a year.

China denies Deng's health deteriorating

BEIJING (R) — China's Foreign Ministry Tuesday described as groundless a report in a Hong Kong newspaper that the health of paramount leader Deng Xiaoping had deteriorated.

The Hong Kong edition of the Taiwan-backed newspaper United Daily News said Mr. Deng was taken to hospital late last month with pneumonia but was now out of danger.

Azerbaijani authorities arrest man for trying to kill president

BAKU (AP) — Azerbaijani authorities Monday announced the arrest of a former police commander suspected of plotting to kill President Geidar Aliyev.

Faig Bakshaliev, who headed an elite police unit in the Agdam region, planned to down Mr. Aliyev's plane with the help of a guided Strela-3 rocket, said Interior Minister Ramil Usubov.

Mr. Bakshaliev has been on the wanted list since his involvement in the failed coup by special police forces in the Azerbaijani capital Baku last March, and was arrested three days ago, Mr. Usubov said.

He has been charged with state treason, which carries a maximum death penalty.

According to Mr. Usubov, Mr. Bakshaliev went into hiding in a country home of Azerbaijan's Labour Party leader, Mamedali Aliyev, where he also met with former top Defence Ministry officials.

The group worked out a plan to eliminate Mr. Aliyev during the president's return from a trip abroad. Mr. Bakshaliev was given the rocket launcher and taught how to use it, but the plan failed because Mr. Aliyev's plane returned along a changed course, said Mr. Usubov.

U.S. soldiers differ in Japan rape pleas

NAHA, Japan (R) — One U.S. serviceman pleaded guilty and two others not guilty Tuesday to raping a local schoolgirl on the southern Japan island of Okinawa in a case that has raised questions about the future of American military bases in Japan.

The two who denied rape pleaded guilty, however, to assault and to abducting the 12-year-old girl.

Navy seaman Marcus D. Gill, 22, who prosecutors said was the ringleader of the group, was the only one of the three to plead guilty to all charges of rape, abduction and battery.

Marine Private First Class Kendrick M. Ledet, 20, and Marine Private First Class Rodrico Harp, 21, pleaded not guilty to the rape charge, but they admitted assaulting the girl and abducting her on Sept. 4.

The three were stationed at Camp Hanson Marine Base in central Okinawa.

They went on trial in the Okinawa District Court two months after they allegedly raped the schoolgirl, sparking a furore that has overshadowed a summit between President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama scheduled to be held in Tokyo on Nov. 20.

A prosecution statement submitted to the three-judge court — Japan has no jury system — said Gill was the ringleader in the alleged attack and first suggested the group find a victim and rape her.

During an ordeal lasting several hours, the girl was first abducted from a shopping street in the village of Kin near the prefectural capital of Naha in the early evening and then bundled into a van.

Tape was used to cover her mouth and eyes, and her hands and feet were bound.

The van was then driven to an isolated beach surrounded by sugar cane where prosecutors said Gill and Harp raped the girl. Ledet tried but was unable to manage penetration, they said.

The statement said that during the ordeal the girl was punched in the face and body a number of times.

Police waited before coming to aid of Canadian premier

OTTAWA (R) — Police guarding Prime Minister Jean Chretien took six or seven minutes to respond after his wife reported a knife-wielding man had broken into their official residence, senior police officials said Monday.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Commissioner Phil Murray said the Mounties had launched a probe into how security at the 24 Sussex Drive residence could have been so grossly violated and how this could be prevented in future.

"Quite clearly the fact this incident occurred is completely unacceptable," Mr. Murray told a news conference. "Our operational procedures require an immediate response."

"We're going to get to the bottom of it and determine why there were shortcomings in security and most importantly to make sure this kind of incident doesn't recur in the future."

Coming early on Sunday morning just 12 hours after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated, the incident shocked Canadians, and federal Solicitor-General Herb Gray said he expected a thorough report within a week or two.

"There have already been enhancements of security measures at 24 Sussex in

light of the incident," Mr. Gray told reporters, adding that this was the first incident of its kind.

A 34-year-old convenience store worker, Andre Dallaire, was charged in an Ottawa courtroom Monday with attempted murder of the prime minister among other charges.

Dressed in jeans and a blue jacket, the quiet, bespectacled man was ordered for psychiatric tests at the Royal Ottawa Hospital. He made no comment.

Mr. Dallaire is from the French-speaking province of Quebec, where a sovereignty referendum failed last week, but police refused to speculate on whether he had political motives.

The break-in highlighted a string of security shortfalls. Mounties on guard first surrounded the house in an apparent attempt to stop the intruder's escape before entering and arresting Mr. Dallaire six or seven minutes after Aline Chretien's call. The delay drew heavy fire from local media.

Police, without giving details, also said the intruder was on the grounds of the official residence for at least 44 minutes, most of that time undetected. He was able to break a glass door — the noise that seemed to have alerted Mrs. Chretien

— apparently without triggering any alarms.

The rear of the prime minister's home slopes steeply down to the Ottawa River, a possible route for the intruder. The front of the house has two booths guarding a short horseshoe driveway from Sussex Drive.

When Mrs. Chretien came face-to-face with the man, who was armed with a jack-knife, she quickly slammed a door on him and locked it before he could enter. Mr. Chretien, who left Sunday for Mr. Rabin's funeral, praised her cool reaction.

Officials said no officers had been suspended. A senior RCMP agent, unconnected with the prime minister's security, is making the inquiry.

In the Montreal suburb of Longueuil, police Sgt. Normand Landry said Mr. Dallaire had no criminal record. His family reported him missing and he was wanted for questioning regarding a small sum of money that was missing from the Couche-Tard convenience store where he worked.

"He was very withdrawn and not very communicative," said Couche-Tard manager Jean-Pierre Hodgson, adding that he never spoke of politics or displayed animosity towards Mr. Chretien.

He refused Tuesday to disclose details of his agenda. Vietnamese officials said earlier the trip would be closed to media coverage because of "U.S. sensitivities surrounding the visit."

But a Foreign Ministry representative said Mr. McNamara would meet senior officials including his former adversary, General Vo Nguyen Giap, the chief strategist of Vietnam's victory.

Mr. McNamara in April published his memoirs, admitting a degree of guilt for the conflict.

McNamara returns to face Vietnam

HANOI (R) — Former U.S. Defence Secretary Robert McNamara returned to Vietnam Tuesday two decades after the end of a war he helped shape and which he now admits was "terribly wrong."

As rains from typhoon Angela lashed Hanoi's Noi Bai Airport a commercial airliner carrying Mr. McNamara touched down just a few hundred yards from the patchwork of wartime bomb craters which still litter the final runway approach.

Mr. McNamara, 79, a key strategist and architect of the Vietnam War, did not speak to journalists as he left the airport by limousine for Hanoi.

However, as his car pulled up at a hotel he told reporters he had come to Vietnam to bear old wounds. "I came here) to see if Vietnam and the U.S. could draw lessons from what was a tragedy for both of us," he said.

Mr. McNamara's three-day visit to Hanoi, which formally begins Wednesday, will see him come face to face with a country which still bears many scars of the conflict.

Foreign writers share French literature prize

PARIS (AFP) — Two foreign nationals writing in French were jointly awarded the Prix Medice 1995, one of France's top literary prizes, officials said.

Russian Andrei Makine and Greek Vassilis Alexakis shared the top prize for, respectively, *Le Testament Français* (The French Testament) and *La Langue Maternelle* (Mother Tongue). Makine, 38, has lived in France for eight years. Alexakis, 50, has lived between Paris and Athens since 1968.

Meanwhile the Medice Foreign Prize went to Italian Alessandro Baricco for *Les Chateaux De La Colere* (The Castles Of Anger). The Prix Femina 1995, chosen by an all-women jury, was awarded to Emmanuel Carrere for his novel *La Classe De Neige*. (The Snow Class). Dutch writer Jeroen Brouwers won the Foreign Femina Prize for *Rouge Decante* (Red Decanted).

Men should be protected from rape — Swazi politicians

MBABANE (AFP) — Male members of Swaziland's parliament have asked the government to introduce a law protecting men and boys from rape and sexual harassment by women, the South African Press Agency (SAPA) reported Monday.

Deputy Robert Mkhawwi said in a proposal to Justice Minister Maweni Simelane that it is becoming common for men and young boys to be seduced by women. He said that fact that Swaziland's rape laws protected only women, is discriminatory, and they should be amended to protect both sexes. SAPA reported. In Swazi society, men who are seduced or raped by women are often "too shy or embarrassed to report it to the police, or even to their own wives", Mr. Simelane said.

3 elephants die while being moved

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Three elephants died after being shot with tranquilising darts while in transit from one Kenya wildlife preserve to another, the Kenya Wildlife Service said Monday. The three were part of a family of six elephants being moved Sunday from a sanctuary in northwest Kenya to Tsavo National Park in the southeast, J.M. Kioko, a spokesman for the service, said.

Mr. Kioko said wildlife service scientists, assisted by Zimbabwean specialist Clem Colessee, noticed that the elephants were under stress immediately after being shot with the darts. The three elephants died within a couple of hours despite scientists' efforts to revive them. Mr. Kioko said. The other three survived unharmed. Mr. Kioko said the planned move of other elephants to Tsavo has been suspended pending the results of a postmortem on the dead elephants to determine the exact cause of death.

Titanic souvenir hunters offered lump of coal

NEW YORK (R) — Pieces of coal from the Titanic went on sale, the first items recovered from the wreckage of the luxury liner made available to the public. The pieces of coal, about the size of half a golf ball, can be bought for \$25 each from RMS Titanic Inc., the company that plans a worldwide exhibition of artifacts from the ship. The British liner, said to be "unsinkable" when it was built, collided with an iceberg off the coast of Newfoundland on the night of April 14, 1912, and went down with at least 1,500 of the 2,200 people on its maiden voyage.

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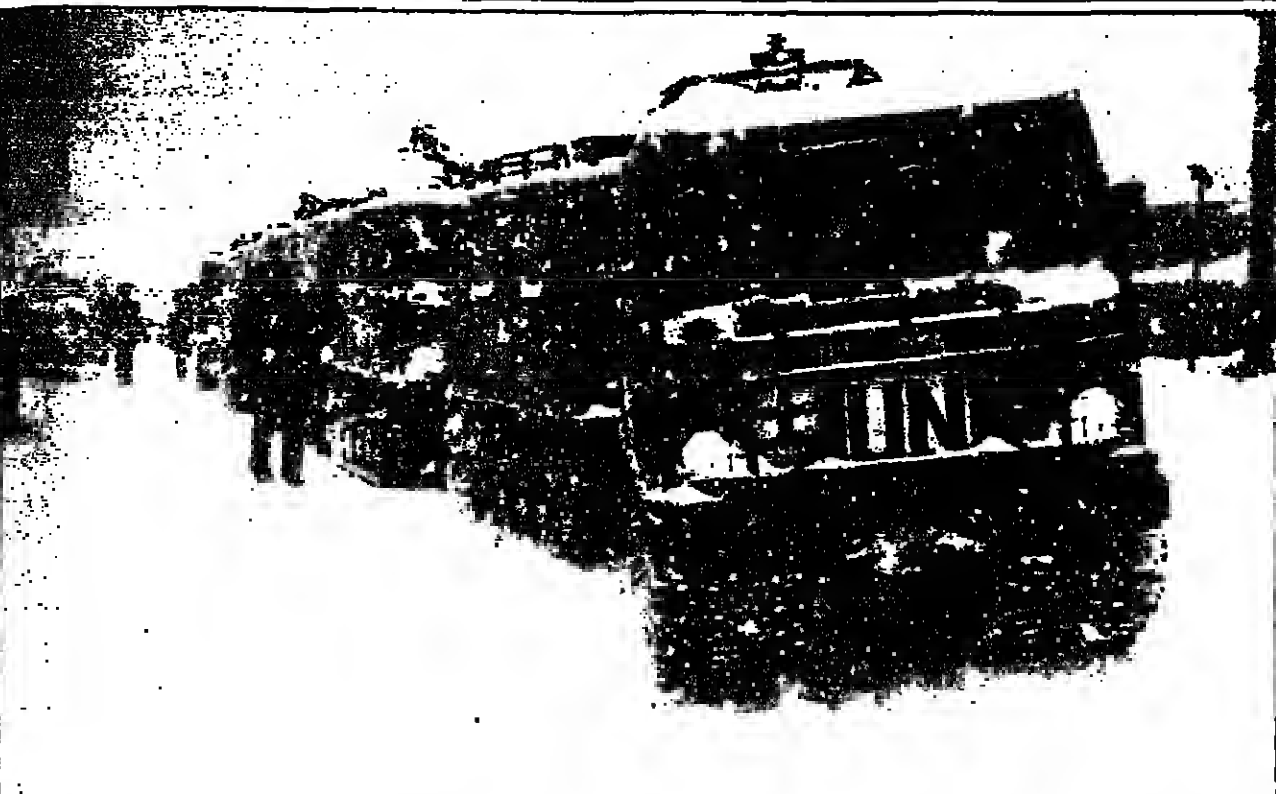
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ACCIDENT ON MOUNT IGMAN: A convoy of Dutch vehicles ferry injured soldiers to mount Igman where members of the 5 Field Ambulance administer emergency medical treatment after a coach carrying soldiers belonging to the army of the Republic of Bosnia Herzegovina came off the road as a result of severe weather conditions. British, French and Dutch troops based on Igman joined in the rescue of the injured men, three of whom died in the accident (AFP photo)

4 Russians killed in Chechnya, another bridge blown

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Three Russian soldiers and a military woman were killed in Chechnya while rebels intensified their attacks against federal troops, officials said Tuesday.

Three of the victims were killed in two chance clashes Monday in Grozny, the Chechen capital.

One incident involved unknown assailants who opened fire from a car at a Chechen man in central Grozny in an attack described as part of a vendetta, the Interfax News

Agency reported. The man, trying to escape, ran toward a Russian military post, exposing the servicemen to a hail of bullets that killed him along with two soldiers, the agency reported.

In another incident, a Chechen passer-by shot dead a Russian military woman in Grozny's main outdoor market after the victim argued with a vendor over the price of a camera film.

The Chechen also fired his pistol at a Russian soldier who rushed to help,

wounding him in the head, reports said. Other servicemen opened fire to scare off the crowd, wounding one civilian.

The military command said rebels fired on Russian troops in 45 separate incidents overnight, with 34 of them in Grozny.

The rebels also blew up a bridge near Grozny while a freight train was crossing it. Two carriages were derailed.

The military issued an angry statement condemning the attacks.

Tensions have escalated in Chechnya since the top Russian commander, Anatoly Romanov, was seriously injured in a bomb attack early last month.

A July military accord providing for rebel disarmament and partial Russian withdrawal has collapsed. Nightly clashes rock Chechnya and attempts to renew peace talks have failed.

Moscow sent about 40,000 troops into Chechnya in December to crush the republic's separatist drive.

Mandela's security stepped up after Rabin murder

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Security around South African President Nelson Mandela and members of his cabinet has been increased following the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the police chief said Tuesday.

"We simply cannot afford to think that we are immune to such lunacy," Police Commissioner George Fivaz said in a statement.

"Distinct parallels exist between the Israeli-Palestinian and South African political processes and it would be disastrous if especially the leaders of the major parties of the government of national unity were harmed in any way," he said.

Mr. Rabin was shot dead by a right-wing Jewish

assassin after addressing a peace rally in Tel Aviv Saturday.

The Sowetan, South Africa's largest black circulation newspaper, quoted Mr. Fivaz as saying: "Rabin's assassination is a tragedy. But we must learn from it."

Mr. Fivaz, appointed by Mr. Mandela to root out racism in the post-apartheid police, said in his statement he had ordered police responsible for the safety of Mr. Mandela, his deputies Thabo Mbeki and F.W. de Klerk, and Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi, to be put on full alert following Mr. Rabin's murder.

"Although not in response to any specific identified threat, the purpose of my instruction is to avoid com-

placency and learn from the Israeli tragedy," the commissioner said.

The order also applied to other members of the government of national unity, he said.

In June, Mr. Fivaz ordered a review of Mandela's security after a journalist was allowed to carry a gun within a few feet of the president. A member of the police VIP protection unit allowed a reporter to keep a personal handgun during a lecture delivered by Mr. Mandela at a Johannesburg theatre.

Mr. Mandela, 77, said Monday that stringent security measures did not always guarantee safety for world leaders.

there is no guarantee that an assassin will not take a pot-shot," Mr. Mandela said.

South African Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu had said earlier Mr. Rabin's murder should serve as a warning to world leaders including Mr. Mandela.

Arch. Tutu told Reuters he had warned Mr. Mandela of possible attempts to kill him after the arrest last week of a former defence minister and other military officers from the apartheid era on charges connected to hit-squad killings of 13 blacks in 1987.

"If anyone wants to get at you, they will get at you. And God forbid that it should happen to Madiba (Mandela).

4 shot dead, 1 wounded in Boston restaurant

BOSTON (R) — Four men were shot to death and another was critically wounded Monday when two gunmen walked into a crowded restaurant in Boston's Charlestown district and opened fire on them at their lunch table.

The shooting occurred during the peak lunch hour when two gunmen entered the ninety-nine restaurant, got into an argument with the victims at their table and then pumped several shots into them at close range, police said.

Police Capt. Edward McNelly confirmed that four men had been killed and a

fifth was rushed to Massachusetts General Hospital with a serious gunshot wound in the stomach.

The suspects were arrested as they ran into a parking lot near the restaurant where a getaway car was waiting.

Eyewitnesses said two off-duty policemen, who were having lunch at the restaurant, chased the gunmen as they left the spot, shouted at them to "freeze" and arrested them before they could get into the car.

Police declined to comment on the possible motive for the shooting. Asked at a news conference whether it was a gangland execution,

Boston Police Commissioner Paul Evans responded, "If it was a hit, it was a very sloppy hit — broad daylight and in a crowded restaurant."

Police identified the suspects as Damian Clemente, 20, and Vincent Perez, 27, both of the Boston area. The victims were not identified.

Witnesses said lunchtime patrons dived to the floor when the shooting started. Four bodies were seen sprawled on the floor or slumped in chairs.

"There were five shots. They were muffled shots. It didn't really sound like a gun," said bartender Lisa

Giordano.

"I was sitting at the bar and I heard what sounded like a balloon popping. I looked over thinking it was a party and heard another shot ... and saw smoke lingering in the air," Steve Maurer told Reuters.

"When the gunshots continued, I realised there might be a gang war or some lunatic popping off, so I dove out of the back door," he said.

Charlestown has a history of Irish-American gang activity and is a well-known haunt of major drug dealers and mid-level organised crime figures.

Major accepts parliamentary rebuff

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major bowed to the will of parliament Tuesday after it delivered a stinging rebuff to his efforts to keep members' business earnings secret.

Legislators voted Monday night by a majority of 51, far greater than expected, in favour of an opposition motion to require all members to make their earnings from consultancy work open to public scrutiny.

Newspapers labelled the defeat humiliating and said it raised questions about Mr. Major's leadership.

Twenty three ruling Conservatives, reflecting public concern on MPs' earnings, sided with opposition parties to inflict the first key defeat on the government for 12 months.

Conservative MPs blamed Mr. Major, absent in Israel for the funeral of assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, for the defeat. One

"rebel", David Martin, said: "The prime minister listened to the wrong advice on this matter of disclosure."

Labour lost no time in pressing home its advantage.

"I find it extraordinary the prime minister managed in fact to take such a reactionary stance and an awful lot of his troops today will be wondering how on earth he got them into that mess," Labour's business manager, Donald Dewar, told BBC Radio.

Mr. Major, speaking before leaving Israel, said he still believed a compromise allowing MPs to keep earnings secret but banning them from paid lobbying activity, was the right one.

But he told Britain's Sky News Television: "Parliament last night decided differently and that is parliament's right." The vote was not an issue of

confidence for the government.

The proposal to make public MPs' consultancy earnings came from an independent committee set up by Mr. Major himself under a senior judge, Lord Michael Nolan, after a string of sleaze scandals involving ruling party members and ministers.

The Conservatives, traditionally the party of big business in Britain, are the chief benefactors from consultancy work. Labour's main paymasters are the trade unions.

Among the Conservative rebels were several MPs who had been involved in "sleaze" allegations and were keen to bolster their reputation before a general election which must be held in the next 18 months.

Monday's vote was described by the Today newspaper as "one of the most devastating blows of

his premiership". The Conservatives trail Labour in opinion polls by 30 points ahead of an election due by mid-1997.

MPs now have until April to declare earnings. Labour predicts a rush to end consultancy contracts before then.

Some ruling party MPs are reported to be considering stepping down at the next election because the new rules will make it harder for them to top up what they regard as their modest £33,189 (\$52,350) parliamentary salary.

One Conservative MP was angry enough to consider defying the new rules. Sir Michael Neuberger said: "I do have to think very carefully about whether I observe this new rule of the House (of Commons). It's not the law of the land."

Storm leaves 1.3 million Filipinos in misery

MANILA (R) — The Philippines mobilised cars, trucks, ships and planes Tuesday in a massive relief operation for 1.3 million people affected by typhoon Angela, which ravaged half of the country and killed hundreds.

About 650,000 people crammed into evacuation centres on the main island of Luzon while tens of thousands remained stranded in flooded homes in remote areas, waiting for helicopters to drop food, clothes and medicine, relief officials said.

"This is one of the most massive relief operations the government has undertaken and all available means of transport are being used," Red Cross officer Jim Catampangan said.

They included wooden carts drawn by water buffaloes, he said.

Medical teams have fanned out to more than

1,000 evacuation centres to help prevent an outbreak of disease, civil defence officer Olive Lucas said.

About 500 people have died in the wake of Angela, which battered Luzon Friday, but officials said the death toll could rise to 700 as some areas were cut off by a breakdown in communications.

"It's possible that many of those missing are already dead," Ms. Lucas said.

At least 133 people remain unaccounted for. More than 1,200 were injured.

The typhoon, the most vicious to hit the Philippines in almost a decade, has frayed the nerves of some survivors.

A postmaster died of a heart attack Monday night in Lucena City, 100 kilometres southeast of Manila, when a local radio station broadcast an incorrect report that Mount Banahaw volcano had erupted.

U.S. not yet ready to select NATO leader

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has said it was not ready to back Dutchman Ruud Lubbers for NATO secretary-general and the search for other candidates should continue.

"We just don't know where this process is leading," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters.

"We need to continue our discussions with our allies and reach a consensus decision, but it's not possible to have one yet because the discussion hasn't reached that point where a decision can be made," he said.

He insisted Washington does not have a favourite in the race and "We're looking at a number of candidates."

It was unclear just how serious ... a ... problem ... Washington had with Mr. Lubbers personally.

But officials acknowledged privately that the Clinton administration was

annoyed at France and other Europeans for pressing the former Dutch prime minister's case publicly and hence seeming to challenge U.S. leadership of the alliance.

President Bill Clinton and most of his top aides had little contact with Mr. Lubbers and less with his only rival, former Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, before they declared their candidacies, U.S. officials told Reuters.

"We felt it was important to have a full discussion with the Europeans about the candidates and not be rushed into a choice," said one U.S. official, who acknowledged the United States was slowing down the selection process.

To date, France, Germany, Britain, Italy, Portugal, Belgium and Spain have declared support for Mr. Lubbers.

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Space radar shows Sahara site of continental crash

WASHINGTON (R) — The site of a colossal smashup of supercontinents 650 million years ago was disclosed on radar images made from the U.S. space shuttle, scientists reported Monday.

The same radar also gave geologists insight into the devastating 1993 floods along the Mississippi River and the mysterious undulating course of the Nile, and could have potential for finding oil, groundwater or even gold.

Peering beneath the Earth's surface to detect deep fissures and folds, space radar detected the spot in the middle of the Sahara where the ancient continents collided, scientist Robert Stern said in a telephone interview.

The continental crash occurred some 650 million years ago, in an era of so-called supercontinents, including one that geologists call East Gondwana — consisting of present-day Australia, Antarctica and India — and West Gondwana, comprised of Africa and North and South America.

The collision zone, located in northern Sudan in an area called the Kerat Suture, represents the joining of parts of East and West Gondwana into an even bigger land mass, known as Greater Gondwana, said Mr. Stern, a geologist at the University of Texas at Dallas who was part of a radar-analysing team.

On the surface, the continental juncture is not much to look at, Mr. Stern said,

simply a broad, flat area of blowing sand. But the radar images, taken from space shuttle Endeavour in April and October 1994, show a region of extensive folds and a large fault where the continents butted together.

The geological havoc wreaked by this crash extends for hundreds of kilometres to the Red Sea, and huge rocks that were deformed in the process may be responsible for an S-curve in the Nile, Mr. Stern said.

"If you can see this kind of a structure (using space radar) then you could be able to see other kinds of structures, including oil, groundwater and gold," Mr. Stern said, speaking from New Orleans where the radar findings were present-

ed this week to the Geological Society of America.

Space radar images of the U.S. midwest showed how ravaged the immense flood plain was by floods two years ago, scientists said.

Because this kind of radar can look below the Earth's surface to spot masses of water, the extent of flood damage can be assessed while the flood is proceeding, researchers said in a statement.

The space radar is a joint mission of the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the German and Italian space agencies and is managed in part by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Jordan Times

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Peace can win

THE IMPRESSIVE assembly of so many world leaders at the funeral of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday was, above all, a living testimony to international commitment to the continuation of the peace process in the Middle East. Those who had expected or hoped for the demise of the peace effort in the aftermath of Rabin's assassination were effectively served notice that all the major capitals of the world remain solidly behind the search for an honourable solution.

U.S. President Bill Clinton may have summed up the feeling of all the leaders who took part in the funeral when he expressed the strong conviction that there will be peace in the region. For his part, His Majesty King Hussein was equally unequivocal on Jordan's faith in the eventual triumph of peace-loving forces and of this country's lasting commitment to the cause. Those who took comfort in the death of the Israeli prime minister thinking that the peace process had suffered a blow from which it cannot recover had better think again. For one thing, the acting prime minister, Shimon Peres, can be expected to follow through on the Israeli government's pledges and plans to advance the process. The announcement yesterday that Palestinian elections will take place as originally planned and that the redeployment of Israeli soldiers will also proceed in accordance with the timetable agreed upon is clear evidence that the aim and ideology of the assassin and people of his ilk will not succeed in stemming the tide of history.

For another reason, the larger rightist parties in Israel are coming under increasing pressure not only to tone their virulent rhetoric against the Israeli-Palestinian accords but also to moderate, even change, their actual opposition to them. In fact that pressure might soon begin to produce positive results if only because the world, and the Israelis themselves, will no longer tolerate bankrupt policies which only stand to deepen hatred and fanaticism in a region that has suffered violence and strife for too long.

Still, these expectations would not in themselves erase the lingering problems that impede comprehensive peace and stability. There were serious obstacles before the assassination of Rabin and there remain hurdles after his departure from the scene. What is going to strengthen or weaken the quest for a permanent and just solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict, however, will probably have more to do with the way the post-Rabin era is handled than with the killing itself. The fact that a Jew killed a fellow Jew is important. But it does not tell the whole story of what is going to happen next in the region as a whole. In the final analysis the future of Middle East peace will be decided upon by how successfully the parties negotiate the remaining issues that separate them.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NONE of those who delivered speeches at the funeral of Yitzhak Rabin has described the assassination of the late prime minister of Israel as a terrorist act or that Yigal Amir, the assassin, as a terrorist, said a writer in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. The whole Israeli society and the Arab countries as well as the world community realise that it was a premeditated murder perpetrated by extremist and terrorist groups in Israel, which oppose the peace process and refuse to give back to the Palestinians their legitimate rights, said Salah Jarrar. At the same time, if an Arab child has thrown a stone on an Israeli military vehicle, his act would be regarded as a terrorist attack, which should be confronted with the most severe measures on the part of the Israeli forces, which could retaliate by breaking the bones of the child and holding him in detention for a long time, according to the writer. By avoiding the use of the terms 'terrorist' in describing Yigal Amir, Arab, Israeli and world media seem all agreed that such term can only be used to describe Arabs and Muslims and nations seeking to regain their freedom and dignity, continued the writer. He said a Jew, an American or a European who commit brutal crimes and massacres against the Arabs is never described as a terrorist. Therefore, he added, it is only logical that resistance activities by the Palestinians and the Lebanese, who seek to liberate their occupied lands, should never be described as acts of terrorism even if such activities cause the death of their adversaries.

NOW THAT he was offered the reins of the Labour Party and the government of Israel, Shimon Peres will find that he has a full agenda and difficult tasks at the domestic and foreign levels, said a writer in Al Ra'i daily. Ihsan Bustami said that there is no doubt that Mr. Peres will go ahead with the implementation of deals his predecessor had reached with the Palestinians, but he will not rush negotiations with the Palestinians over the Jewish settlements, the refugees or the future status of Jerusalem. By following such policy, Mr. Peres will no doubt be seeking voters support for his Labour Party in the 1996 parliamentary elections, especially as he has pleased a good sector of the Israeli society by recently declaring Jerusalem as the united and eternal capital of Israel, continued the writer. He said Mr. Peres is expected to follow in Mr. Rabin's steps in matters pertaining to the protection of the Jewish settlers and in dealing with Syria and Lebanon, and in other sensitive issues in order to secure the Labour Party's unity behind his back and guarantee success for this party in the coming elections.

No room for appeasement

By Samer Badaro

THERE IS no mistaking that few events have evoked emotions as contradictory for the modern Arab as the assassination of one 73-year-old man in Tel Aviv three days ago. Where the black and white areas of the major watersheds in our recent history have been easy to identify, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination confronts everything that is grey in the Arab psyche. Indeed, were he one man, figuratively speaking, the Arab is questioning not only deep-rooted convictions and notions of right or wrong, but actual feelings towards such basic instincts as animosity and vindictiveness on one hand, and humility and generosity, on the other.

Nothing exemplifies this better than comparing the chador-clad child photographed distributing sweets in celebration in Beirut and the photograph of sombre Arab mourners attending the funeral in Jerusalem. The first expresses the confused relief of a frustrated people whose land remains occupied, while the second expresses the grief of par-

ners in an arduous young venture whose fruits have yet to be collected. Both emotions are undoubtedly genuine, but both cannot be morally equal.

The price has been high, but the mainstream on both sides of the Arab-Israeli divide has decided to come to terms with the demographic, economic and historical realities of the Middle East.

The two Gulf wars, the break-up of the Soviet Union, and an economic whirlwind since the middle of the eighties have brought the Arab mainstream to the rude awakening that growth and development — social, economic, and political — were antithetical a petrified frame of reference built around an on-going yet inactive war of eradication against an enemy who has otherwise established very real military, economic, and diplomatic dominance.

For the Israeli mainstream, the six-year long intifadah and the perceived threat from Iraq were some reminders that military victory and suppression were not to be the ultimate arbiters between the peoples of the Middle East, but that

dialogue, compromise, and, eventually, cooperation had to be the way for a safe and liveable future.

This mainstream on both sides decided to turn the page on the old world of total winners and absolute losers, and embark on the challenging venture that peace is.

The peripheral fringe, on the other hand, has not accepted the same conclusions and has remained committed to older notions of right and wrong. In Tel Aviv, on Saturday, and in public for the whole world to see, the fringe had its say, exposing with three shots delivered in less than a minute the frailty of a peace that has been made to fix the wrongs of the past five decades.

The point was not lost on those who rejoiced on the Arab side, either, and who were eager to highlight the ease with which this peace may be dismantled. Their fuel is the injustice and transgressions of recent history, and there is an abundance of that on both sides, from sanctioned assassination in Malta to exploding vans in Tel Aviv.

For the fringe to succeed

is for the region to return to dismemberment and petrification. Those who see this as the vision for the future are in the dark because, as far as sensible men are concerned, no one stands to benefit from the absence of peace in the Middle East. That does not change the convictions of the peripheral fringe on both sides who believe themselves accountable to a different set of morality than what the mainstream holds as sensible. But as the assassination on Saturday proves, the fringe is not without influence.

For the mainstream to succeed, as sensible men would wish it, basic issues have to be accommodated. First and foremost, the momentum that has been generated by the peace process to date has to be sustained. More directly to the point, the initiative can only come from the one party which has anything tangible to offer. Much of the fuel that drives the fringe on the Arab side is derived from the misguided notion that peace can be sustained by isolating Syria. In an age where wars are decided in the skies rather than on

land, procrastination on the return of occupied land can only compromise the credibility of the peace drive.

Appeasing the fringe is not an option. However, it is incumbent on all parties to the peace process to deal with their peripheral fringes, possibly starting by eliminating the double talk. Public opinion has been ready for the final verdict on future relations between the peoples of the Middle East for quite a while. The ambiguous and often contradictory signals about unresolved issues such as the future of the settlements and of Jerusalem are also part of the ammunition which fuels the fringe's drive against the peace process.

It is critical to protect this peace, not simply because the peoples of the region have grown tired and wish to realise its economic potential, but because civilisation must prevail and because war amongst people must be the exception, not the rule.

The writer is a marketing executive for the British Bank of the Middle East. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Rabin assassin knocks out main pillar of peace in Israel

By Robert Mahoney

Reuter

TEL AVIV — With three rapid shots a right-wing law student not only robbed Israel of its Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin but also toppled one of the main pillars of Middle East peace.

For most Israelis the peace process was Yitzhak Rabin.

He alone had the political and military credibility to press peace agreements with the PLO and Arab states on a split parliament and a deeply divided society.

His assassination a year before an Israeli general election has placed a question mark over the entire U.S.-led drive to end half a century of war and enmity between Arab and Jew.

The killing has embarras-

sed the right wing which opposed Mr. Rabin's historic 1993 handshake with PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Political commentators said they expected the Likud opposition and groups to its right to fall silent for a few months as the nation came to terms with the shock of its first political assassination.

But the right is still strong and Mr. Rabin's Labour-led coalition has only a wafer-thin majority in parliament.

Labour's success was built on Mr. Rabin's reputation as a former general who could be trusted with Israel's security. This allowed the 73-year-old leader to reach an accord on Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, sign a peace treaty with Jordan and start nego-

tiations on returning the Golan Heights to Syria in return for peace.

Shimon Peres, who is expected to succeed Mr. Rabin, is probably even more committed to the peace process. He played the prophet to Mr. Rabin's pragmatism.

But Mr. Peres, currently foreign minister and acting prime minister, is far less popular and is distrusted by a number of "swing" voters in the centre, political pollsters say.

"I don't think Peres will call an election now and risk a sympathy vote," said pollster Hanoch Smith. "It will take three months to organise an election... by then it will be back to the issues."

Other commentators noted that Mr. Peres's history of failure in four gener-

al elections as Labour leader might prove too much of a liability in next year's poll when the prime minister will be directly elected for the first time.

Mr. Peres was quick to reaffirm his commitment to Mr. Rabin's policies and he vowed to continue peace talks. Washington, too, pledged to rededicate itself to Middle East peace.

Palestinians said Israel should now clamp down on government-armed Jewish settlers who opposed the transfer of authority in the West Bank and Gaza.

"This is a very important lesson, that the Israeli right should not continue to be armed," PLO negotiator Ahmed Korei told Reuters.

Palestinian officials said the assassination would give the Israeli government a chance to crack down on

the extreme-right and could give it a wider mandate to pursue peace.

However, some feared internal conflict within Labour could impede Israeli decision-making in the negotiations.

Mr. Smith said the right was subdued now but could bounce back, especially if the implementation of the agreement with the PLO, including troop redeployment, in the West Bank goes awry.

As for another Israeli strategic goal — peace with Syria and Lebanon — Mr. Rabin's disappearance could spell further delays.

Israel is deeply split about Mr. Rabin's reassurances that their security would not be endangered. Commentators say they are less likely to believe Mr. Peres.

India defies Kashmir revolt with call for polls

By Nelson Graves

Reuter

SRINAGAR, India — Weeks before the Indian government decided to hold assembly elections in troubled Jammu and Kashmir state, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's cabinet approved a little noticed but revealing measure.

It quietly decided that polling would go ahead in each of the state's 87 constituencies even if a candidate or candidates were killed during the campaign.

The measure underscored Mr. Rao's determination to press ahead with the first state elections since 1987 despite widespread local opposition and a bloody separatist revolt in which more than 20,000 people have died.

Armed militants fighting for an independent Kashmir or merger with neighbouring Pakistan are expected to step up their five-year-old insurgency during the election campaign, which the cabinet said would culminate in polls by mid-December.

The separatist movement's political leaders say assembly elections are no response to the state's Muslim majority's yearning for freedom from mostly Hindu India's rule.

"The people will not participate in the elections because the people are very much fed up with Indian rule," said Syed Ali Shah Geelani, head of the All Parties Hurriyat (freedom) Conference grouping some 30 Kashmiri separatist groups.

"We will go to the masses and persuade them that elections are not the answer and everyone must stay away from the electoral process," Mr. Geelani said.

Farooq Abdullah, leader of the National Conference Party that leans towards India, said he might boycott the polls but left a final decision to his party's working committee.

That could make it difficult for the election commission to accept the cabinet's recommendation or for the elections to appear credible to international observers.

"If the national conference does not participate, the elections will not be credible at all," political commentator Mohammad Maqbool said.

Election commission members were set to visit the troubled state next Wednesday to determine if conditions were conducive for free and fair elections.

Earlier this year the commission decided not to call polls after a well-known shrine was destroyed following a standoff between militants and security forces.

New Delhi's authority to rule directly over the strategically located state expires on January 17, and it would require parliament's approval to extend the power for another six months.

at Charar-E-Sharif, provoking popular outrage.

But Mr. Rao is waging that this is the last, best chance to restore the state's administration and end the federal government's direct rule over the Himalayan region.

The prime minister has been under international pressure to restore democracy to the state and would reap domestic electoral gains if he brought peace to India's most rebellious state.

More than 20,000 paramilitary troops have been called in to bolster security, especially in the Muslim-

majority Kashmir valley which accounts for 46 of 87 assembly seats. Jammu in the south, with more Hindus, has 37 seats. Buddhist-majority Ladakh in the east has four. Higher turnout was expected in those regions.

Kashmiris interviewed in the summer capital Srinagar were mostly defiant. "My conscience does not allow me to walk over 40,000 dead bodies and cast my vote to restore Indian democracy in the state," said Mohammad Ayub, a three-wheeler driver.

"Do you think Kashmiris will cast their vote after such a heavy sacrifice?" shopkeeper Shamim Ahmed said.

LETTERS

'Blessed are the peacemakers'

To the Editor:

YITZHAK RABIN is dead, assassinated at the hands of a man who planned his murder in cold blood, a man who proudly attributed his actions to the name of God. The God he invoked was the very God who said "Thou shalt not kill."

I was raised to think of Israelis as enemies. The new peace has sat uneasily. But, if I ever doubted before, I am convinced that now is the time to forgive. The hardest lesson of learning to forgive is to reconcile the fact that one cannot forget. Forgiveness is meaningless unless the injury is remembered and released. If one can forget, the injury couldn't have meant much in the first place.

I cannot condone the violence committed by Israelis in Palestine, but I can understand it. It was an assault motivated by fear, the fear of a people who were hunted like animals and given the most gruesome and ignoble deaths, wicked deaths that no human should be able to devise, let alone have to suffer. Motivated by such terror, what crimes might anyone be able to commit for the sake of security and attribute it to the name of God? It does not lessen what followed in Palestine, but the first step in forgiveness is to understand.

I have heard cries that the Holocaust must not be forgotten. These calls are just for they combat a people who would conceal the depths to which humanity can fall. But this is not enough. The Holocaust must

be forgiven as well. The occupation of Palestine must be forgiven. As long as we give in to hate, we will never rise above our persecutors and murderers. As long as we rejoice in the death of a man, no matter what his crimes, we reduce ourselves to the barbarism that we claim to abhor. The blood that cries out to God from the ground knows no nation or cause, but testifies to our defiance of a simple commandment: Thou shalt not kill.

I recall an episode in a television show called Home Front, where an Irish-American Catholic asks an Italian Jewish friend if she didn't want revenge against the Nazis for what they did to her and her people. She replied that everyday she lived and breathed was her vendetta. Everyday her son lived and breathed was her vendetta. Her words are a testament to how high a human can rise above the harrowing of hell. Where there was death, we must bring life. Where there was terror, we must bring love. Where there was war, we must bring peace. Yitzhak Rabin was a man who turned away from war to pursue peace at a terrible cost that only increased until he paid all that a man can ultimately pay. His blood, too, cries from the ground. Let us give him the vendetta that he deserves.

Talal S. Hattar,
 c/o Binational Fulbright Commission,
 P.O. Box 850215,
 Amman.

Mobile style

Last week the Jordan Times published an article on mobile telephones in Israel, which have become a status symbol in that country. According to the author, one now feels virtually naked without his mobile. It is a reflection on the dynamism of the Jordanian people that, in the short period since the introduction of mobile phones, we have contrived to copy the trend.

Walk into a gathering in Amman, and the odds are that people will be comparing the merits of their respective mobiles. Admit that you are not equipped with one, and your friends will stare down their noses at you, as they drift in the general direction of away. You will be cast into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

I reflected on this as I settled down with some friends at our regular watering hole. The soothing hum of chatter and laughter was constantly interrupted by shrill ringing noises, until we wondered if we had been beamed into a space-invader game. At the sound of this call, hands abandoned their idle pursuits and jerked to the hip with agility that would have done credit to John Wayne. At any moment of time, there was at least one person with a finger stuck in one ear, and a mobile telephone held firmly against the other.

I tried to imagine the human drama surrounding these conversations: People trying to impress their interlocutors by having an associate in the subterfuge call them at five minute intervals, wives telling their husbands that dinner is getting cold, people telling their spouses that they will be delayed at work or at the hairdresser's, the same people then calling their paramours to arrange a tryst, the sceptical spouse calling back to ascertain from background noises the true whereabouts of the one to be loved, honoured and obeyed. But perhaps my romantic nature is getting the better of me. Is it not possible that business decisions of great importance and urgency are behind the incessant calls?

Well, really! Is there a trip within Amman that is likely to last longer than 20 minutes? How many of us have had to make decisions that could not wait 20 minutes? Has the pace of life in Amman changed to that extent without my noticing it? Or are we simply following the doctrine of one-upmanship that guides consumer societies: "Buy now, think of the utility of your purchase later?"

If this is the case, let me inform all the proud owners of mobile phones that they do not impress me, for I have one-upped them. Amuse yourselves with your tinkling toys as well you may, but I am the one that has undergone the true test of valour, and come out with flying colours. Yours proudly has gone where no man dares to tread, done battle where the fray is thickest, and emerged victorious. I have applied for a normal telephone from the Telecommunications Corporation, and I have actually received it.

Self-rule deal back on track

(Continued from page 1)

"Whatever we have agreed and whatever we undertook upon ourselves we are going to implement in spirit and letter. I am confident that we have to do it and we shall do it," he said.

As foreign minister under Mr. Rabin, Mr. Peres not only gave Israel a grand vision of regional peace, he also led the detailed talks with Mr. Arafat on extricating soldiers from the West Bank.

"We will continue exactly according to the time schedule," Mr. Bejin told Reuters.

Syria said meanwhile the assassination of Mr. Rabin had left the region with a greater need for peace.

"The Middle East is now, more than anytime before, in bad need for a just and comprehensive peace, a peace which will put an end to the region's tragedies," the official daily Al Baath said.

"The Israeli side is now required to adopt a specific and public position accepting full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and South Lebanon," Al Thawra said in another political comment.

Peres seeks 'peace cabinet'

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Ramon has let it be known that he is ready to take part in the team "given the new circumstances." And according to those close to him, he covets either the job of foreign or interior minister.

Two deputies from the small ultra-orthodox parties, the Shas and United Tora Judaism, have also told Mr. Peres they would be prepared to take part in a Labour-led coalition "on certain conditions."

The backing of these deputies would improve Mr. Peres's parliamentary majority, but still leave it slim at only 68 in the 120-seat Knesset.

But a Likud leader and former defence minister, Ariel Sharon, said he was "outraged" at these early contacts "while Rabin's tomb is still fresh."

"First we need to make peace between the Jews and for that Peres must set up a dialogue with the right, otherwise we are going to run into a catastrophe," he warned.

U.S. Congress shows support

(Continued from page 1)

A renewal of the facilitation act that would keep the assistance flowing for 18 months is expected to be debated in coming weeks.

Meanwhile in New York, the U.N. Security Council in New York observed a minute of silence in memory of the slain Israeli leader.

President Bill Clinton on Monday spoke briefly with Mr. Arafat by telephone before leaving Israel after attending the funeral of Mr. Rabin, Mr. Clinton's spokesman said.

While House spokesman Mike McCurry told reporters aboard Mr. Clinton's plane as he flew back to Washington

that the president expressed understanding for Mr. Arafat's decision not to attend the funeral for protocol and security reasons.

"The president just had a five-minute conversation with Chairman Arafat," Mr. McCurry said.

He quoted Mr. Clinton as telling the PLO leader: "I did not want to leave the region without touching base. I understand the dignified way in which you handled this very tragic episode."

Mr. McCurry said "Arafat not going was a result of protocol issues and security issues." He said one factor was concern over how the Israeli right wing would react if Mr. Arafat attended the funeral.

Probe focuses on conspiracy

(Continued from page 1)

onto a bookstand pictures of Mr. Rabin and his successor, Shimon Peres, both hanging from gallows. Underneath was the inscription, "Yigal Amir lives."

This would once have been dismissed as babble by a harmless lunatic fringe. But now Israel's leaders are beginning to take the militants seriously.

Ori Orr, chairman of the parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee, said Monday that Israel should have come down harder on the extremists.

"Deep down, we believed it wouldn't really happen," the baroness said. "After what has happened, all our thinking about Jewish extremists has changed, and we will take it calling back to us more seriously."

Israel's security services have refrained from taking the toughest methods they have used against Arabs against the Jewish extremists who vowed to topple Mr. Rabin after he signed the first peace agreement with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in 1993.

Mr. Peres "reportedly also targeted by the assailant met with police and security officials Monday to discuss cracking down on extremists and enforcing laws against them."

The right-wing opposition, which has been a vocal critic of the peace process, is also

best it neglected to uproot such elements from its midst and that, at worst, it prompted the repeated cries of "Rabin traitor" and "Rabin murderer," promised support for any crackdown.

"Their language, culture and ideology is totally different from that of 99 per cent of the public," said Likud legislator Tzahi Hanegbi, himself once described by Mr. Rabin as an inciter.

Baruch Marzel, leader of Kaeb, said the emphasis was on the feeling (the assassin had) all the time, but I control myself. I know what his moods are, I feel it every day that I am angry," said Mr. Marzel, who has spent months under house arrest after praising the Hebron mosque killer, Goldstein.

"Anything can happen with people with their back to the wall," he warned.

Raviv, head of Eyal who praised the assassin immediately after the funeral, spoke to Israeli army radio from hiding to say he feared arrest.

"We are a legal movement and so I don't know why there's all this pursuit after members of our movement," Mr. Raviv said. But, while denying any involvement, he acknowledged the assassin was a member of his organisation.

Arafat urges fight against extremism

(Continued from page 1)

not change dramatically under Mr. Peres.

"We are certain that Mr. Peres will continue with the peace process. He has already informed us that it will continue and it is an irreversible option (for Israel)," said Tayeb Abdul Rahim, general secretary of the PNA.

Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee and an expert on Israeli affairs said: "It is not easy for the state of Israel to turn its back to agreements signed... I don't expect to see crucial changes in Israeli foreign policy."

"I think that Peres is capable of leading the government and of uniting the Labour Party. This would strengthen its standing in the coming elections," he said.

The head of the Society of Arab Studies in Jerusalem, Ishaq Budeiri, was also cautious about the future.

"Rabin was the strong man of Israel and could take major decisions in consultation with Israeli generals.

ing to invest in Palestinian areas in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

"There will be no peace and no stability in the entire Middle East if the Palestinians will not have real development and reconstruction starts," Mr. Arafat told the meeting.

He urged the Palestinians to make to put more money in new projects in Gaza and the West Bank and complained that donor countries were not giving enough to the Palestinian authority.

He promised that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) would do everything it could to protect private investment in the self-rule areas.

In occupied Jerusalem, PLO officials said the assassination of Mr. Rabin could lead to changes that would strengthen the peace process and marginalise Jewish extremists.

"They said that while it was all too early to judge what Mr. Rabin's death would mean to Israel's domestic and foreign policy would



French police patrol a market in Paris after an explosion there injured several people (AFP photo)

French suburban unrest raises fears of 'intifada'

By John Chalmers
Reuters

MANTES-LA-JOLIE, France — "I was born here, but I don't feel French. I'm an Arab," said Rachid, one of a group of youths sitting aimlessly around a dilapidated shopping precinct in this economic disaster zone north-west of Paris.

Behind the Val-Fourre precinct's vandalised stores and crumbling pavements rise drab apartment blocks, each with its own cluster of satellite dishes.

"It makes people feel at home. They watch television from North Africa, programmes in Arabic," said Rachid.

Rachid and Mohammed are typical of a new generation of "beurs" — French youths of North African origin — who have spurned the values of a country they believe has rejected them.

"I can go to a factory and ask for a job, but when they see Mantes-la-Jolie on my papers there's no hope," Rachid said. "If they don't want us, then we don't want them."

He said nine out of 10 of his friends were unemployed.

Once hailed as a leap

forward in urban comfort, estates such as Val-Fourre were thrown up in haste in the 1950s and 1960s to cope with a baby boom, a wave of immigrants and French "pieds noirs" — settlers fleeing Algeria after the North African country won independence.

With the onset of mass unemployment in the 1980s, the social architects' dream turned to a nightmare — many of the big-city suburbs, known as "banlieues," are now hotbeds of drug-dealing and violent crime.

A recent report by the police intelligence commission revealed that violence and crime were now common in two-thirds of French suburbs, irrespective of whether they had large immigrant populations or not.

Of more than 1,000 neighbourhoods studied, a core of about 200 were found to suffer from an "extremely high" lack of security. There the police, fire brigade and authorities in general "command neither fear nor respect," it said.

Tension in the suburbs has been high in recent weeks since a wave of bombings in Paris and near the central city of Lyon,

which have killed seven people and injured about 170.

Algeria's shadowy armed Islamic Group (GIA) has claimed responsibility. It wants France, the former colonial power, to end its support for the military-backed Algerian authorities who cancelled a 1992 election which Muslim fundamentalists were poised to win.

The authorities believe Muslim extremists have recruited young delinquents and convicts to fundamentalism from France's depressed suburbs to carry out the three-month bombing campaign.

In a huge security operation codenamed "vigilance" the authorities have stepped up the police presence in cities and assigned thousands of army personnel to police duties.

About two million spot identity checks, usually on people such as Rachid and Mohammed, have been carried out since the operation was launched. Muslims in France overwhelmingly oppose the bombings and say they are being victimised by the checks.

"I have my papers checked at least twice a day, even

outside my own home," said one of their friends, who slunk off before he could be asked any more questions.

"Look at my face," said another. "To the police and the rich people in Paris I'm a bomber."

Resentment has boiled over in past weeks, with cars and buildings being set on fire and clashes between police and disgruntled youths becoming an almost nightly occurrence in depressed, high-immigrant neighbourhoods such as Val-Fourre.

Many fear that violent rebellion by communities which have lived for so long on the fringes of society is turning the banlieues into U.S.-style urban ghettos.

Others, pointing to a growing Islamic movement, talk more ominously of France's very own "intifada."

Christian Bachmann, a sociologist and author of a new book on urban violence, said Minister for Integration Eric Raoult's promise to add muscle to policing in the suburbs was dangerous.

"That treats trouble with more trouble," Mr. Bachmann said. There is an ur-

gent need to calm people down, otherwise we are heading for an intifada. Even if we are a long way from the situation in American suburbs, the trend is worrying."

Francois Cremieux, secretary-general of the anti-racist group SOS-Racisme, said words like, "intifada" were dangerous.

"But it is true that we are heading for an explosion in the banlieues," he told Reuters. "Over the next 10 or 20 years French society is going to have to spend monumental amounts of energy and money on the banlieues."

Some of the frustrations are linked to President Jacques Chirac's campaign promises of a war on unemployment and efforts to help the homeless and the poor to avert what he called a looming "social explosion."

He changed his emphasis last month when he said that French first needed two years of fiscal austerity.

Prime Minister Alain Juppe has held two ministerial meetings on security in the suburbs and will announce a special plan to improve life in such neighbourhoods later this month.

Trumpeted as a "Marshall plan," the package is expected to include measures to create as many as 100,000 jobs, with 30,000 specifically for people under 25, and improve public services.

Mr. Raoult has said state spending on urban affairs will rise by 6.5 per cent, or nine billion francs (\$1.8 billion), next year despite a drive to cut the state deficit.

Dalil Boubakeur, head of the main mosque in Paris, says people are wrong to make an automatic link between the problem of suburb delinquents and the more than four million Muslims that live in France.

The number of French mosques has risen to about 130 from just a handful 15 years ago and there are now thousands of prayer halls where before there were almost none.

That, Mr. Boubakeur said, was a reflection of the malaise in Muslim communities.

"It is true that when someone has a problem, socially speaking, the attraction of religion is much stronger," he told Reuters. "Islam's message is peaceful, one of tolerance."

Crown Prince condoles Israel

(Continued from page 1)

paying condolences to Leah Rabin at her home in Tel Aviv.

King Hussein, who attended the funeral, made his first visit to Jerusalem since Israel seized the east of the Holy City in 1967. His stay in the city was restricted to West Jerusalem.

Prince Hassan, accompanied by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and Jordan's Ambassador to Israel Marwan Muasher also met with Israel President Ezer Weizman in the presence of Israel's Ambassador to Jordan Shimon Shamir and Israeli Minister of the Environment Yossi Sarid.

Prince Hassan presented his condolences to the president and the Israeli people on the death of Mr. Rabin. The Crown Prince and the Israeli president reaffirmed their countries' commitment to the peace process.

Following his meeting with the president, Prince Hassan told journalists that Jordan was keen on going ahead with the peacebuilding process.

He stressed that Jordan's commitment to peacebuilding remains firm, adding that nothing and no circumstances like this can make it change its position.

The Crown Prince later visited Mr. Rabin's home in Tel Aviv and presented his condolences to the late prime minister's widow Leah Rabin.

The Prince returned home late Tuesday.

Israelis flock to Rabin's tomb

(Continued from page 1)

nedy did. It shows the solidarity of the United States, but now we have to continue to go forward.

"Without him, it will be hard," he added, nodding towards Mr. Rabin's final resting place.

Saudi Arabia on Tuesday condemned the assassination of Mr. Rabin and expressed hope his death would not have a negative effect on the Middle East peace process.

"We condemn all acts of violence and terrorism. Our history has always been against violence," a senior Saudi official in the kingdom told Reuters.

Foreign ministers of the Saudi-dominated Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on Sunday regretted Mr. Rabin's death but said they were confident the Middle East peace process would continue.

Some members of the GCC, which also includes Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, issued independent condemnation of the attack.

The senior Saudi official said: "This act was directed against the peace process. We hope this process will continue on track."

Kuwaiti newspaper editorialists paid tribute to Mr. Rabin and called for a rapprochement between Arab countries and the Jewish state.

"The blind bullets may have got the better of Rabin and (Egyptian President) Anwar Sadat but not their ideas," the editorialist at Al Seyassah said. Sadat was assassinated in 1981, four years after he made peace with Israel.

"Those who believe in peace are growing in number. There's no other choice. Peace is not someone you can murder. It's the only feasible way in the Middle East."

Aid expo confirms emergency relief is big business

By Philippe Naughton
Reuters

GENEVA — After the Armenian earthquake in December 1988, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev threw his country's borders open to international aid for the first time and the response was incredible.

France alone sent two boatloads of used clothing for the half-million homeless. Cuba sent rescue teams in socialist solidarity and an emotional appeal by a doctor in Yerevan produced no less than 37 kidney dialysis machines.

Yet for George Reid, who was heading an International Red Cross disaster team in the republic, much of it was useless.

The Cubans were not prepared for the Armenian winter, bundles of used clothing blocked the Soviet transport system — and most of the kidney machines arrived too late to help the crushed earthquake victims.

What Mr. Reid and his Red Cross colleagues needed most urgently was... carbon paper.

"The Soviet system would not work without carbon paper... one copy for the man at the airport, one for his boss, another copy for his boss, and so on," says Mr. Reid.

"In the end, we diverted a plane to Frankfurt and just flooded the Soviet Union with carbon paper."

Mr. Reid, a former journalist who spent five years as a Scottish nationalist member of the British parliament in the 1970s and more than a decade in the Red Cross movement, has a supply of stories about the pitfalls of uncoordinated disaster relief.

He is finding them useful in his latest role as spokesman for Worldaid 96, the first trade show and conference devoted to the emergency relief aid. The project is backed by the United Nations and main voluntary aid agencies.

The show, to be held in Geneva from Sept. 30 to Oct. 4 next year, stems from the premise that emergency relief is now big business.

Its customers may be the poorest in the world and its backers always pleading poverty, but turnover has risen by more than 300 per cent since the early 1980s.

According to the organisation for economic co-operation and development, an estimated \$8 billion will be spent this year helping the victims of disasters and conflict.

Experts say that while official budgets for long-term development shrink, the high-profile nature of emergencies is increasingly attractive to governments eager for publicity.

"Eight billion, that's big bananas," said Mr. Reid in an interview. "Any other business of that size would

have had its own trade show years ago."

The Worldaid Expo will bring the companies who supply aid agencies together with the agencies and their buyers.

Food is the biggest item on the agencies' budget but the aid market is a lucrative one for car and truck manufacturers as well as thousands of companies with specialised products such as mine-detectors, temporary hospitals, or water supply equipment.

Transport, for example, whether it be chartering huge Russian cargo planes or buying Japanese four-wheel drive vehicles, will cost aid agencies more than \$1 billion this year.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has no less than 2,025 vehicles and in the whole Red Cross and Red Crescent there are more than 20,000.

Mr. Reid says that with a year to go, half the space available in Geneva's Palexpo Exhibition Centre is already booked up. About 100 companies have reserved stands in the past few months and a further 250 have expressed interest.

Parallel with the trade show, a conference on the aid business will hear speakers including agency chiefs, international personalities and critics of the industry.

An important goal for the

organisers, who hope to repeat Worldaid every two years, is for the conference to produce a practical code of conduct for relief operations.

Although 40 major organisations have adopted a code of conduct regarding the ethics of their overseas operations, there is no similar code governing the practicalities of a relief action after, for example, a flood in Bangladesh.

An example given by Worldaid is that goods are often sent in boxes with no outward sign of what they contain — why not use a system of bar codes that could be read by handheld scanners, allowing relief organisers to track exactly what supplies had been sent where?

Another problem that will be discussed is the proliferation of agencies, many devoid of proper organisation. Much of the aid to Bosnia in the past four years was delivered by people who simply got in their cars and drove it in.

"You have to ask yourself, why are there 900 voluntary agencies working in Bangladesh? Is that efficient?" said Mr. Reid.

"We hope to make it all more efficient. If we can achieve savings of just five per cent in the money spent on humanitarian aid, that's already another \$400 million that can be spent on the victims."

OAPEC: Arabs need \$139 billion for energy expansion till 2010

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states need to pump more than \$139 billion over the next 15 years into expanding their energy sector to face a projected growth in world demand, an official group said Tuesday.

The projects cover oil and gas exploration, development of existing fields, and improvement of transport facilities for crude, gas and petrochemicals, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) said.

"The investments will also involve modifications at regional oil refineries to meet new world environmental standards," it said in a study, obtained here.

The Kuwaiti-based group gave no breakdown for the investment but experts said most of the projects would be carried out in the Gulf, home to more than 60 per cent of

the world's proven crude reserves of around one trillion barrels.

Most Gulf states have already been involved in plans to boost oil output capacity to face a steady rise in consumption worldwide.

Independent estimates have shown three Arab Gulf nations — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — need to spend more than \$50 billion until 2000 to expand their crude oil industry.

Saudi Arabia, the world's oil superpower, has approved plans to develop its giant desert field of Shaybah to produce around 500,000 barrels per day (b/d) and maintain its output capacity at 10 million b/d by the year 2000.

Kuwait and the UAE plan to raise capacity to over three million b/d from around 2.5 million b/d currently while Iraq said last month it needed

nearly \$30 billion to nearly double production to six million b/d.

But Gulf Arabs have warned long-term expansion plans could falter if crude prices remained low and industrial nations pressed ahead with proposals to impose more energy taxes that could slow down growth in demand.

"Can Arab states face the financial challenge of expanding their energy production capacities?" asked the 10-nation OAPEC.

"Can they raise funds at a time when oil consumers are imposing discriminatory measures against oil imports?" it said in a reference to the carbon tax proposed by the European Union to limit crude consumption in a bid to protect the environment.

OAPEC did not elaborate on the increase in Arab production capacities but noted

regional states would account for the bulk of the rise in global demand of between eight million and 10 million b/d by the year 2010.

Experts said most Arab states could be forced to readmit foreign partners they kicked out three decades ago in a nationalisation drive. They said this would help them ensure both funds and technology for energy expansions.

Iraq has already made clear it would invite foreign investors for oil projects once crippling United Nations sanctions were lifted. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have also indicated they might take back foreign partners.

Most regional states have been hit hard by low crude prices, with their budgets suffering from deficits and overseas reserves drained by persistent withdrawals to finance growing development.

Low oil price, quota-busting limit OPEC's 1996 options

LONDON (R) — Chronic overproduction and low oil prices give the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) little room to manoeuvre when it meets in two weeks to decide 1996 production levels.

OPEC's lack of derivatives was evident again: last month when, according to a Reuters survey of industry participants, output rose to 25.5 million barrels per day (b/d), up 240,000 b/d from September and nearly a million b/d over its 24.52 million b/d ceiling, in place but usually ignored since September 1993.

OPEC is most likely to hold the ceiling unchanged for all of next year with an option to revise it at midyear if needed, OPEC delegates say.

"The cheating is the final nail in the coffin. First we have high non-OPEC output, then a low price and now high OPEC output. We have no choice but a rollover," said a senior OPEC official.

When OPEC last met in June, several ministers hinted that the group would raise its ceiling next year to win back some market share lost to prolific non-OPEC producers.

But the temptation by some group members to pump up the volumes and continued record-setting output from several non-OPEC producers in the North Sea and Latin America have killed these aspirations.

"OPEC is in a strait-jacket. They should probably cut production but it would be politically impossible to pull off," said oil analyst Geoff Pyne of investment bank UBS.

Last month, Nigeria recorded the biggest OPEC production increase though Iran, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE were also up from September, the Reuters survey found.

Venezuela was still overshooting its quota by the biggest margin and though its 2.72 million b/d output was steady from September, it was some 360,000 b/d over its quota.

The dire financial situations in both Venezuela and Nigeria, OPEC's largest non-

Mideast producers, mean neither is expected to turn down the taps voluntarily, OPEC delegates say.

"In both Venezuela and Nigeria, oil ministers have little say. The oil companies rule there. The best we can hope is they don't increase by too much more," a senior OPEC delegate said.

At their Nov. 21 meeting in Vienna some OPEC ministers, including those from the influential Mideast Gulf, will chastise the most blatant quota-busters like Venezuela, Nigeria and tiny Qatar but the criticism will remain behind closed doors and the meeting will probably be brief, OPEC delegates said.

"It will be done quietly. It is best to avoid public debate. It will be a quick meeting," said one OPEC Gulf delegate.

Venezuelan Oil Minister Erwin Arrieta, currently OPEC's president, Monday again blamed "secondary

sources" who miscalculate Venezuelan production figures.

But sources, including several senior Venezuelan officials, put the country's wellhead crude output over 2.7 million b/d.

Most of Venezuela's exports go directly into its own downstream system it is the largest foreign oil supplier, surpassing Saudi Arabia this year.

Iran, OPEC's second largest producer, was seen slightly over quota last month after capitalising on a successful marketing campaign to replace sales lost by the U.S. boycott.

OPEC heavyweight Saudi Arabia pumped 8.14 million b/d in October, up from 8.07 million b/d in September but the kingdom supplied less to the market, Saudi sources say.

The Reuters survey released Tuesday seeks a best

estimate of wellhead flows, OPEC states based on the views of officials, industry monitors and analysts inside and outside member countries. OPEC quotas are set on supply to market, defined to include movements to, but not sales from storage.

Traders said that while the market has accepted current OPEC output, any increase would result in a price fall.

"The market is expecting and has factored in a rollover. Any increase would be bad," said Bo Van Wijk, a derivatives specialist at broker Amerex.

High world oil output and sluggish demand as the lack of supply anxiety has led oil companies to allow stocks to dwindle have kept pressure on oil prices.

On Tuesday, the world benchmark North Sea oil Brent Blend hovered around \$16.45 a barrel, some \$3 below the 1995 high hit in May.

Arab Gulf countries open meeting on mining projects

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AFP) — Arab Gulf states opened a conference Tuesday to discuss projects in their untapped mining sector in a drive to diversify their oil-dependent economies and cut a large metal import bill.

The two-day meeting, the first of its kind, would include several mining projects that could be carried out jointly by the public and the private sectors in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), officials said.

The seminar is intended to discuss ways to develop this sector and increase private investment in it, said a statement by the Saudi oil

and mineral resources ministry, which is organising the meeting.

"It will be an important opportunity for officials and businessmen from member states to sit and discuss such projects and get acquainted with the potentials of the mining sector in Saudi Arabia and other GCC states," the statement added.

Officials said the projects involved copper, gold, manganese, iron, chrome, magnesium, phosphates, gypsum and other ores existing in the oil-rich region.

Oman and Saudi Arabia have already opened their mining industry to the private

sector as part of economic reforms to offset low oil prices.

Official figures showed private investment in the Saudi cement industry and mining sector exceeded seven billion Saudi riyals (\$1.86 billion) during the previous five-year development plan, which ended in 1994.

"Saudi Arabia is working to encourage national and foreign investment in its economic sector, including mining which constitutes one of the main features in plans to expand the economic base," the Saudi statement said.

The non-oil mining sector in the GCC, which also groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has remained largely unexploited as the six members have concentrated on the development of their energy industry.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study just how your dynamic friends have become successful and try today to emulate them. Then get together socially with close associates.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) If you are more cognizant of current mechanisms and methods at this time, you can utilise them to your greater advantage.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 20) You can see where you are headed more clearly at this time and you can make new plans for expansion. Consult an expert for advice.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 21 to July 21) This is a good day today to be with successful persons in business who can give you right ideas for your own advancement.

LEO: (July 22 to August 22) Think about the most outstanding personalities of your acquaintances and contact them today for ideas which can be helpful to you.

VIRGO: (August 23 to September 22) Add pizzazz to your career activities you are doing and gain greater benefits from them. They get together socially with fellow associates.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get right into the amenities which fascinate you today and have a delightful time. Stop feeling sorry for yourself and get together.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can solve those problematic affairs very nicely at this time. Do some entertaining at home later this evening with your loved one.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is a good day today to dash about handling important matters and getting the right results. Drive carefully while on the highway.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Be more modern in handling business affairs today and be more willing to expand and you won't get lost in the shuffle.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have many fine ideas today and you should weed out those not so good and get the others operating quickly for your success.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is a fine day today for putting your energy into private interest and improving them considerably. Do something to please your mate.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye

THE ACER DEAL

AcerMate
Intel 486DX2-66 MHz, 4 MB RAM,
1.44MB FDD, 530MB HDD,
14" SVGA Cr. LR, 0.28, DOS 6.2

AcerMate
Intel Pentium-75 MHz, 8 MB RAM,
1.44MB FDD, 256KB Cache,
530MB HDD, 14" SVGA Cr. 0.28, DOS 6.2

SSC SPECIAL SYSTEMS CO. P.O. BOX 9162 AMMAN JORDAN TEL. 664221 FAX. 681597 TEL. 31123 SPLSYS

ACER

Save Water... Every drop counts!

THE Daily Crossword by Ronald C. Hirschfeld

ACROSS

- Naughty kids
- Happy
- Cottonwood
- Food regimen
- Tops
- Mature
- River to the Baltic
- Kismet
- Small hill
- Position open to attack
- Swirl
- Vane dir.
- Greek letter
- Sayings
- Deck drains
- Till
- Old TV sitcom
- Jean — Godard (French film director)
- Where to sign
- "Haw"
- Lace again
- Arabian gulf
- Claim as one's own
- Hemingway
- pros (law term)
- Heel
- Asian sea
- Obey the rules
- Kind of strike
- Medley
- Pervasive quality
- Rock
- Appoint
- Raise
- Indian dwelling
- Stout and portier
- Morse code dashes

DOWN

- Pedestal figure
- Kind of slant
- Hammer part
- Potency
- Faux pas
- Goldbrick
- Against
- Bambi, e.g.
- Vessel for 59D
- Starting players
- Footless animal
- Pinochle term
- Sole
- Small bill
- Piano practice piece
- Mimicked
- Hilo hello
- Eatery
- Fall flower
- Franch
- composer, Erik
- Pretty
- Slur over
- Magic charms
- Aroma
- Lucretia — (social reformer)
- Therefora
- Distributed cards
- Renier
- Connected to a computer network
- Reverberates
- "Norma"
- Aide: abbr.
- Solemn ceremony
- On
- Chaplin's wife
- Middle East airline
- Fourth dimension
- O.T. patriarch
- Makes a mistake
- Bom

THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen

"Normally I don't notice such things, but did you change your mascara?"

Peanuts

YOU'RE GOING TO THE MOON?

BUT YOU HAVE TO WEAR ONE OF THOSE THINGS ON YOUR HEAD.

WELL, YES... SORT OF LIKE THAT.

Andy Cap

COWN! SET YOURSELF UP!

HEAVEN! ALL DRESSED UP FOR BREAKFAST — WHAT A LOVELY CHANGE

YOU'VE CHANGED TOO!

I HAVE IN WHAT WAY, PET?

YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND ME LAST NIGHT!

Mutt'n'Jeff

COME ON, ELVER, YOU OL' HOUND DOG! LET'S SEE HOW GOOD A HUNTING DOG YOU ARE!

KARF!

AH, HE'S SCENTED SOMETHING! MAYBE A RABBIT OR A COON!

COULD BE A DEER! BOY, LOOK AT HIM TRACK IT DOWN! HE'S FULL OF DETERMINATION!

Japan

YOKO (R) — Japanese finance minister said a double hit to the economy from a rival ministry's handling of the bank scandal and a sharp drop in the yen's value could lead to a crisis of confidence in the government.

The ministry's handling of the bank problem was "inappropriate," Economic Planning Agency Minister Miyazawa told a House of Representatives session.

Traders said that while the market has accepted current OPEC output, any increase would result in a price fall.

"The market is expecting and has factored in a rollover. Any increase would be bad," said Bo Van Wijk, a derivatives specialist at broker Amerex.

High world oil output and sluggish demand as the lack of supply anxiety has led oil companies to allow stocks to dwindle have kept pressure on oil prices.

On Tuesday, the world benchmark North Sea oil Brent Blend hovered around \$16.45 a barrel, some \$3 below the 1995 high hit in May.

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Commodities

Stocks

Bonds

Currencies

Interest Rates

Commodities

Stocks

Bonds

Currencies

Interest Rates

Japan's finance ministry gets drubbed over Daiwa

TOKYO (R) — Japan's embattled finance ministry took a double hit Tuesday when a rival ministry attacked its handling of the Daiwa Bank scandal and a top brokerage said officials shouldn't meddle in private-sector matters.

"Japanese authorities, including the ministry of finance, handling of the Daiwa Bank problem was not appropriate," Economic Planning Agency Minister Tsutomu Miyazaki told a regular news conference.

Criticism of the finance ministry for its handling of the Daiwa case and the rest of Japan's financial woes has mounted following the U.S. government's announcement last Thursday of a 24-count criminal indictment against Daiwa. U.S. authorities also ordered Daiwa to close its U.S. operations by Feb. 2.

Finance ministry officials have been in the hot seat since admitting that they were told in early August that a Daiwa bond trader in New York had confessed to running up a \$1.1 billion loss on unauthorized deals.

Daiwa did not notify U.S. regulators until September.

Mr. Miyazaki said the delay was "inappropriate" and the finance ministry could not be absolved of all blame.

"If one thinks America is too tough, then one is lacking in international perspective," he added.

The criticism came one day after the main opposition New Frontier Party decided to call for the resignation of Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura over the Daiwa scandal.

"The incident is something like a national disgrace, so the responsibility of the finance ministry cannot be

ignored," Kyodo news agency quoted a senior party official as saying.

Mr. Takemura stopped short of shouldering the blame, but acknowledged that the ministry's handling of the Daiwa case might have been inadequate.

Mr. Takemura said the ministry should have realized that the Japanese way of dealing with financial scandals would not be acceptable in the United States and that inspections by Japanese and U.S. authorities as well as Daiwa were inadequate.

He said the ministry would improve its inspection methods, especially of Japanese financial institutions overseas units.

The once-mighty finance ministry also came under fire from Nomura Securities, the nation's largest brokerage, reportedly angered by a proposed merger of Daiwa and giant Sumitomo Bank.

Japanese media reports said Nomura, which is Daiwa's largest shareholder with a 3.3 per cent stake, was opposed to a possible merger between Daiwa and Sumitomo. Nomura has close links to another rival bank, Sanwa.

A Nomura spokesman said Nomura President Hideo Sakamaki met Daiwa President Takashi Kaiho Monday, but declined to comment on the reports that Mr. Sakamaki had opposed the merger.

Mr. Sakamaki told reporters after the meeting that a merger should go ahead only if it had the approval of all parties including shareholders, business partners and employees, Kyodo reported.

He expressed disapproval of government officials taking the lead in restructuring the financial industry.

Speculation has mounted that finance ministry officials

promoted the notion of a merger between Sumitomo and Daiwa to calm market worries about financial turmoil and to show that the ministry had the situation under control.

Kyodo quoted Mr. Sakamaki as saying: "The times we are in do not call for administrative authorities to take this action or that."

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET			
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SECTORS			
TELEPHONE: 607117 / 607119			
ORGANISED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 07/11/1995			
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALOR TRADED	PREV. CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK P.C.	140	33600	240.000 240.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2100	9363	4.470 4.450
BANK OF JORDAN	760	27740	3.620 3.650
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	4525	5429	1.200 1.200
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1662	3988	2.400 2.400
THE HOUSING BANK	2226	9793	4.400 4.400
JORDAN KURAT BANK	426	1184	2.780 2.780
JORDAN CUP BANK	66350	76463	1.140 1.160
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	200	726	3.630 3.630
BUSINESS BANK	1000	3260	3.360 3.360
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	118	4301	3.740 3.740
BETTY REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT FOR HOUSING	1800	4104	2.310 2.300
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	19150	19075	.990 1.000
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	34550	55944	.830 1.630
BANKS SECTOR	141661	253868	INDEX NUMBER: 189.60
INSURANCE SECTOR	24	91	INDEX NUMBER: 129.00
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	5400	8851	1.640 1.640
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE	500	1276	2.550 2.550
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	111	221	1.980 1.990
JORDAN PRICES FOUNDATION / ALRAI	30	490	9.790 9.790
ARAB PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	4600	6852	1.260 1.280
DRYON LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP.	1807	4109	1.080 1.080
SERVICES SECTOR	16768	23777	INDEX NUMBER: 120.90
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	3873	32135	3.630 3.630
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	144	429	3.000 3.000
THE ARAB POSTAL	800	2474	4.930 4.950
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	124	1162	9.370 9.370
THE JORDAN WOODEN MILLS	100	760	7.600 7.600
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	6667	31367	4.700 4.700
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1594	9504	6.000 6.000
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	250	808	2.440 2.430
RAPIA INDUSTRIES	2000	4580	2.260 2.280
DAR AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	966	6616	7.000 7.000
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	16900	11225	.670 .480
NATIONAL PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	29550	41075	1.420 1.400
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	200	410	2.050 2.050
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	100	105	1.040 1.050
INTERNATIONAL PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	3615	6496	1.800 1.790
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	1100	4400	4.000 4.000
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	122	1013	8.250 8.250
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	200	390	1.950 1.950
KARIM INVESTMENT	600	960	1.620 1.600
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	1150	3617	3.150 3.150
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	132	1712	1.320 1.320
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	7480	13183	1.500 1.550
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	1650	5204	1.430 1.430
UNITED CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRY	250	495	1.990 1.980
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	97916	193223	INDEX NUMBER: 123.42
GRAND TOTAL	256369	470160	INDEX NUMBER: 156.98
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	107425		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET	99672		

Fixing dinar/dollar exchange rate strengthens Jordanian currency, moneychangers say

THE AIM of fixing a dinar/dollar exchange rate was to remove all fears and silence all rumours about a dinar devaluation against the U.S. currency, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Nabulsi has said.

The measure also aimed at assuring the public of the stability of the dinar and enable depositors to benefit from the margin between interest rates on the dollar and on the dinar. Moneychangers gave varying analysis but all agreed that the decision to fix a dinar/dollar exchange rate was a step consolidating the stability of the dinar and attracting more investments.

Abdul Salam Al Saudi said there will be no effect to fixing the exchange rate unless the Central Bank sells directly to moneychangers at the official 708 fils and buys from them at 710 fils. Mr. Saudi said the CBJ decision to fix the dinar/dollar exchange rate meant currency stability to all those who deal with dollars. He pointed out that during the summer season, moneychangers were trading currencies, including the dollar, at rates below those officially set.

Adnan Hamad said the CBJ decision improved the dinar exchange rate against the dollar and that reflected on all currencies linked to the dollar in favour of the Jordanian dinar. He noted that the dinar exchange rate improved by half a per cent. Mr. Hamad said there was a large supply of dollars after the CBJ announcement and that lowered the dinar's exchange rate in the market despite the rise in the value of the dollar against other foreign currencies. The moneychanger said the timing of the CBJ move was good as it put an end to dinar devaluation rumours and consolidated the dinar's strength.

Mohammad Beibars said that the market was still moving according to supply and demand despite the CBJ fixing of the dinar/dollar exchange rate. He added that, however, the CBJ action caused lower demand for dollars and lower supply of dinars in the market. Mr. Beibars explained that investors can now feel safe to deposit their funds at banks in dinars and for long periods to benefit from about eight per cent interest rate compared to about five per cent interest rate on dollar deposits. He noted that obvious trend has developed to buy development bonds and certificates of deposit issued by the CBJ.

Mahmoud Abu Jouda described the CBJ move as "a strong element for the stability of

the Jordanian dinar exchange rate" and indicating that it would eliminate any attempt to speculate on the dinar exchange rate at the local market. He pointed out that after fixing the dinar/dollar exchange rate the supply of dollars is more than the demand for it (Al Aswaq).

No more free phone calls

BEGINNING JAN. 1, 1996 the Telecommunications Corporation will cancel all free phone calls within the same governorate and, as such, will be charging all local phone calls during the year. The corporation is now allowing each telephone line 400 local phone calls free of charge every three months and charging 20 fils for every four minutes of phone extra calls. In exchange, charges for national and international phone calls will be lowered, the minister of post and communications said. He gave no details except to say that the rate of the reduction was still under study. The minister said that studies were also underway for restructuring charges and making every governorate a separate telephone circuit in order to unify charges within each governorate (Al Ra'i).

Price of bread may rise

PRICE OF bread could be raised to 160 fils a kilogramme under a government intention to reconsider wheat prices and subsidies. Informed sources, who have been involved in preparing studies on the subject, said the measure will save the treasury about JD 85 million a year. The sources said the government will continue to subsidise poor and low-income families by providing them with wheat at current prices. The Ministry of Supply will be taking special measures and procedures to ensure that wheat reaches all the needy at very reasonable prices and adequate subsidy, the sources said. They pointed out that the government will resort to this policy because the subsidy it provides goes mostly to non-Jordanians and capable Jordanians in addition to hotels and sweet shops (Al Ra'i).

Businessmen travel to Palestinian areas on Friday

A GROUP of 34 businessmen representing various industrial sectors will travel to the Palestinian self-rule areas Friday for a six-day visit which aims at consolidating cooperation and coordination to market Jordanian and Palestinian products to outside market (Al Dustour).

Financial Markets

Jordan Times			
In co-operation with			
Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets			
Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close	
	Nov 7/11/95	Nov 7/11/95	
Sterling Pound	1.5604	1.5785**	
Deutsche Mark	1.4130	1.4132	
Swiss Franc	1.1375	1.1392**	
French Franc	4.8915	4.8985**	
Japanese Yen	103.25	103.16	
European Currency Unit	1.2940	1.2950**	
* 100 per 100			
** European Opening at 6:00 a.m. GMT			
Interbank Interest Rates			
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.56	5.62	5.50
Sterling Pound	6.50	6.50	6.50
Deutsche Mark	3.81	3.81	3.81
Swiss Franc	1.93	1.87	1.87
French Franc	6.35	6.25	6.15
Japanese Yen	0.18	0.13	0.18
European Currency Unit	5.56	5.54	5.56
* Forward bid rates for months exceeding 12 months 1.0000 or equivalent.			
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.7080	0.7100	
Sterling Pound	1.1776	1.1832	
Deutsche Mark	0.8006	0.8091	
Swiss Franc	0.6204	0.6235	
French Franc	0.1446	0.1455	
Japanese Yen	0.0085	0.0087	
Dutch Guilder	0.4470	0.4497	
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000	
Italian Lira	0.0044	0.0046	
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000	
* Per 100			
Other Currencies			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
Bahraini Dinar	1.8620	1.8780	
Lebanese Lira	0.043935	0.044350	
Saudi Riyal	0.1885	0.1898	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.5070	2.5670	
Qatari Riyal	0.1932	0.1945	
Egyptian Pound	0.2100	0.2200	
Omani Riyal	1.8330	1.8410	
UAE Dirham	0.1922	0.1933	
Greek Drachma	0.2775	0.3075	
Cypriot Pound	1.5235	1.5950	
* Per 100			

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.			
One U.S. dollar	1.3528/38	Canadian dollar	1.4124/34
	1.5820/30	Deutschmarks	1.1398/08
	29.03/07	Dutch guilders	4.8962/12
	1594.0/5.5	Swiss francs	103.17/27
	6.6970/70	Belgian francs	6.6970/70
	6.2430/80	French francs	5.4718/18
	1.4132/42	Italian lire	1.4132/42
	6.6970/70	Japanese yen	1594.0/5.5
	1.4132/42	Swedish crowns	103.17/27
	0.7530/35	Norwegian crowns	6.6970/70
	7.7329/39	Danish crowns	1.4132/42
		Singapore dollars	0.7530/35
		Australian dollars	7.7329/39
		Hong Kong dollars	
One sterling Gold (ounce)	\$1.5770/80		
	\$382.30/382.60		

JORDAN MARKETPLACE

DAJANI
JEWELLERS

Gems of the world . All birthstones in 18 & 21 K gold . Unique designs .

Amra Hotel Shops
6th Circle, Amman .

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Doriemus wins Melbourne Cup

MELBOURNE (R) — Favourite Double Trigger was ordered to undergo a drugs test after New Zealand stayer Doriemus won the Melbourne Cup on Tuesday.

After starting strongly, the Ascot Gold Cup winner fell away during the second half of the 3,200-metre race to finish 17th.

Double Trigger had returned an "irregular swab" during a routine test before the race.

But the five-year-old 9-2 favourite was allowed to start after an assurance from trainer Mark Johnston about the horse's condition, a Victoria Racing Club official said.

The Stewards' race report said top weight Double Trigger would undergo a swab test after the race but the result would not be available for about a week, the official added.

"Acting on Johnston's assurance and as the analyst was uncertain as to whether

the irregularity was related to a prohibited substance, the stewards permitted Double Trigger to take part in the race," she said.

Johnston said after the race that Double Trigger looked fine and was kicking when stewards performed the swab test.

"I can't explain what happened," Johnston said. "They (the stewards) took a post-race sample from him and told me at this stage not to be too concerned."

Australian jockey Damien Oliver guided Doriemus to a prestigious double in the Melbourne Spring Racing Carnival following the five-year-old's win in the Caulfield Cup two weeks ago.

The gelding, which gave Australian trainer Lee Freedman his third Melbourne Cup success in six years, won by four lengths from Nothin' Leica Dane, with 1993 winner Vintage Crop third in heavy conditions.

Double Trigger finished about 50 lengths behind the winner.

Doriemus, carrying 54.5kg and owned by Pacer Australia Syndicate from the Western Australia gold mining town of Kalgoorlie, started at 10-1.

After a relatively slow race, Doriemus held off a late challenge by Nothin' Leica Dane and then pulled clear in the final furlong to claim the 1.3 million Australian dollars (\$975,000) first prize.

"I have had so much faith in this horse for so long. He is a sensational horse," Freedman said.

"When he won the Caulfield Cup, we knew he would go well at Flemington," said Freedman, whose previous cup wins were with Subzero three years ago and Tawhrific in 1989.

Doriemus is the first horse to complete the Spring Carnival double since Let's

Elope in 1991.

Oliver, who rode Paris Lane to second place behind June in last year's Melbourne Cup, said his horse recovered superbly after a nervous start.

"This horse is the best two-miler I've ever ridden. He's probably the best stayer in the country," Oliver said.

"Lee wanted the horse in the first four or five but he settled back and I thought it better not to push the horse early, just to let him work his way into the race."

"The last 200 metres of the race seemed to take forever."

Dermot Weld, trainer of third-placed Vintage Crop, said the nine-year-old was unable to recover from a poor start.

"The plan was to be in the first four or five but he got stopped in his tracks in the first 100 metres and he was left with a lap to run," Weld said.

Seles, Graf back Aussie boycott bid

OAKLAND (AFP) — A movement by top players on the WTA Tour to boycott the Australian Open in quest of equal prize money to men gained strength here this week.

A letter signed by world co-number ones Monica Seles and Steffi Graf as well as other top players will be sent to Tennis Australia, which plans to raise men's prize money by 17 per cent compared to a six per cent increase for women.

While finalists would remain on equal financial footing, the remainder of the women's field would receive less than male counterparts, a move Australian Open officials attribute to financial limitations and lower crowds and television ratings for women's matches.

American players Lindsay Davenport and Mary Joe Fernandez expressed dismay at the Aussie action, calling it "a huge step back for women's tennis."

Becker aiming for the top

PARIS (AFP) — Boris Becker may have turned professional more than a decade ago — but he is still aiming for the top.

"As long as I play competitive tennis it is always my aim to be the best player there is," said the 27-year-old German, who was beaten in the final of the Paris Indoor Open on Sunday by the new world number-one Pete Sampras.

And Becker stressed that the only reason he was still ranked fourth in the world was because he had been willing to make changes to his game.

"I am not so old that I can no longer run as fast as my opponents — and I still hit my services as hard as anybody in the power department," he said.

"But the main lesson I have learned is that I must be willing to develop my game. I have had to adapt to the new players coming up and to the likes of Sampras and Agassi."

"Six years ago I could not have played from the back

court as I do now. It used a case either of hitting the first point for a winner or hitting a lot of aces and the match would be over."

Becker, who reigned as world number-one for 12 weeks back in 1991, has still not written off his chances of climbing back to the top of the rankings.

"I am glad I have been at the top once," he said, adding: "I am not the type of guy who is trying to avoid being number-one because the pressure is so high. I am quite the opposite."

"I felt it was an honour to be number-one and there were a couple of times this year when, if I had won a certain match, I would have gone very close to getting back to the top," he said, referring to the Wimbledon final where he would have overtaken Sampras in the rankings if he had won the title.

"So it all comes down to just one or two major matches," he said.

Becker, who won the first of his three Wimbledon titles in 1985, admits that great former champions probably wouldn't make much impression on today's top players.

"Comparing McEnroe and Connors with Sampras and Agassi... I would have to say that Pete and Andre would almost certainly win."

"Players today are taking more chances out there and the speed of the game has increased to an incredible level."

"But it still depends on what the surface is."

"I still think, for example, that in his best days Lendl on clay would have been an extremely tough opponent to beat."

"Sampras is incredible on grass and Agassi on a hard court is also very difficult to beat on a good day."

Asked which sort of player he most enjoyed playing, Becker replied: "Somebody I can beat."

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REVIEW

Austrian Airlines celebrates third year of operation in Jordan

UNDER THE patronage of Austrian Ambassador Dr. Michael Stigelbauer, Austrian Airlines in cooperation with its general sales agent, Petra Tours, held a reception on Oct. 6, 1995, a Regent Hotel, on the occasion of their third year of operation in Jordan.

Dr. Stigelbauer, delivered the opening speech in which he mentioned that Austrian Airlines is one of the oldest European airlines, well-known for its friendliness and service.

Sami Abu Alsaoud, country manager of Au-

strian Airlines for Jordan & Iraq, also delivered a speech in which he mentioned the new schedule of Austrian Airlines flights.

A passenger travelling out of Amman, he said, will be able to catch more than 25 destinations on the same day, within 25 to 30 minutes, at Vienna's Airport.

Austrian Airlines is using the newest type of Airbus (Airbus 340) for the long haul destinations, such as Washington, New York, Tokyo, Beijing and Johannesburg.

Stefan Edberg

Edberg back on home ground

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Stefan Edberg made a nostalgic return Monday to the venue where he won two of his earliest titles and carried on the victory tradition with a 6-3, 6-1 first round decision over American Jonathan Stark at the \$825,000 Stockholm Open.

Edberg, seeded eighth at the Kungliga tennis hall, the classic venue for tennis in the Swedish capital prior to the opening of the massive Globen arena in 1989, was honoured with a brief ceremony on court before the match for his achievement in winning his 1,000th career match two weeks ago in Essen, Germany at the Euro-cup Open.

World No. 23 Edberg is only the fourth player in the

modern game to have completed that milestone along with Ivan Lendl, Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe.

"It was nice to have the ceremony," said the 29-year-old Swede, who will be using six weeks off until the start of the new tennis year in Australia in January to relax briefly and begin working seriously for 1996.

"I'm very disappointed that nothing was done in Essen by the ATP. Records are nice to have, but I think that you appreciate them more 10 or 15 years down the road."

Edberg won the Stockholm event in 1986 and 1987 when it was played here. It was returned to the venue for the first time since 1989.

The senior Swede, winner of six Grand Slam titles, dismissed the threatened boycott of women tennis players over a reduction in their prize money at next year's Australian Open, an event he has won twice.

"Most people come to the Grand Slams to watch men play," he said. "We play best of five sets. In my opinion, I think it's fair that the women get less."

Edberg was joined in the second round by compatriots Henrik Holm and Jonas Bjorkman. Holm defeated Dane Kenneth Carlsson 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, while Bjorkman started with a 7-5, 6-3 win against Jacco Eltingh of Holland.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HUSSEIN
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A TOUCH OF TECHNIQUE

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ K 8 2	♠ 7	♥ 10 4	♥ 9 8 7 6 5 3
♥ 10 4	♥ 7	♦ 10 4	♦ 9 8 7 6 5 3
♦ 10 4	♦ 7	♣ 10 9 7 2	♣ 8 4
♣ 10 9 7 2	♣ 8 4	♠ A Q 3 10 6	♠ A Q 3 10 6
♠ A Q 3 10 6	♠ A Q 3 10 6	♥ A K Q	♥ A K Q
♥ A K Q	♥ A K Q	♦ A J	♦ A J

The bidding: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

West led the king of clubs, and the first decision declarer has to make is whether or not to hold up. Since refusing the ace runs the slight risk of a defensive ruff, declarer should spurn the holdup and win the trick. It might seem that the fate of the contract will rest on guessing which way to take the heart finesse, but South managed to convert a "guess" into a sure thing.

After drawing trumps in three rounds, East shifting two hearts and the last two, declarer cashed the three diamond winners and then ended with the jack of clubs. West won and was forced to exit with a club, on which East discarded another heart as declarer ruffed.

The distribution of the heart suit was now an open book. West had shown up with three trumps, three diamonds and six clubs, so the defender could hold no more than one heart. Declarer led a heart to the king, in case West held a singleton queen, then claimed the slam on a proven finesse for the queen of hearts.

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'Arabs, international community have responsibility to help W. Bank, Gaza'

Jordanian-Palestinian relations in new phase characterised by serious action, Crown Prince Hassan tells Cairo meeting

CAIRO (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Tuesday the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are the joint responsibility of all Arab and international parties.

In an address delivered on his behalf by his advisor Mohammad Saqqaf at a seminar on Palestinian reconstruction and development in Cairo, Prince Hassan said the fact that the political aspects of the Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations are the sole responsibility of the Palestinians does not negate that the international community should shoulder responsibilities towards the economic development of the Palestinian territories.

Prince Hassan said the only way to enhance political peace is to bring 'improvement to the living conditions of all the region's peoples.'

Prince Hassan voiced confidence that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) will be able to face all requirements of economic development and overcome obstacles facing it.

Nevertheless, he added, "we believe that the process of reconstructing the Palesti-

nian economy and enabling the PNA to meet the requirements of a sustainable economic development can in no way take place without the support of the region's countries and the international community... Jordan believes that peace is an important prerequisite for achieving this goal but peace cannot on its own achieve reconstruction and development. Financial support by the international community is an important factor at this stage in rehabilitating the Palestinian economy."

Prince Hassan said the international community should work on widening the scope of development programmes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel should also lift some restrictions imposed on the Palestinian economy to enable the Palestinians establish economic links with the Arab World, he said.

Economic development in Palestine cannot take place in seclusion from the Arab medium, he noted, asserting that it was imperative at the present to activate joint Arab economic cooperation.

As the Arab countries are

joining the peace process, it is becoming clear that the Middle East will soon witness drastic changes, said the Crown Prince. Jordan hopes the process will lay the foundation stone for economic development in the region, especially in the Palestinian territories which remained for about 27 years handicapped by occupation, he said.

He said Jordan took the initiative to help the Palestinian economy as soon as the declaration of principles was signed between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel on Sept. 13, 1993.

Jordan, he added, was keen to enable the Palestinians to face the requirements of the new stage as it was during the occupation period to help alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people, through facilitating the flow of their exports across bridges linking the West Bank with Jordan.

Prince Hassan also said Jordan and the PNA agreed to adhere to the principles of free trade between them and to exempt national products of all customs duties and other tariffs, with the exception of the sales tax in Jordan

and the value added tax in the Palestinian areas.

Jordan has also reopened branches of Jordanian banks in the West Bank to fill the vacuum left by the absence of Palestinian financial institutions. In addition, the two sides agreed to the use of the Jordanian dinar as one of the currencies circulated in Palestine, he said.

"The Jordanian-Palestinian relationship has started a new stage distinguished by serious work," he said.

The Crown Prince added that Jordan "will save no effort in urging the international community to meet its obligations towards the Palestinian economy and addressing structural problems facing it, especially the lack of the infrastructure and public services."

Prince Hassan voiced hope that the seminar would come up with mechanisms that would contribute to overcoming economic and financial obstacles and challenges facing the Palestinian people.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat inaugurated the seminar, which is organised by the Arab League.



Israelis light candles at the site of the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Tel Aviv (AFP photo)

Leah Rabin blames Netanyahu, recalls prophetic death threats

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The widow of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Tuesday that Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu and other Israeli right-wingers created the atmosphere that led to her husband's assassination by a religious fanatic.

Leah Rabin, in a series of radio and television interviews, blamed rightist lawmakers for giving violent speeches in parliament and allowing outrageous incidents against her husband at rallies.

"There was a Likud rally in Jerusalem not too long ago," she recalled. "They put the figure of Yitzhak, my husband, in the uniform of a Nazi leader and Mr. Netanyahu was there. He later talked against it, but he was there and he didn't stop it."

In the interview, with ABC Television, she also complained that her husband was pictured as wearing a keffiyeh like Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and no one put a stop to it.

Mrs. Rabin said she thought about refusing to shake hands with Mr. Netanyahu at her husband's funeral but then decided not to make a scene. But she said she tried to be "very cold to him, as cold as I could be."

She added: "He knew, and we both understood that we would have both loved to avoid shaking each other's hand."

"Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu, now he can say from here to eternity that he didn't support it, didn't agree with it, but he was there and he didn't stop it," she said of the instance where Mr. Rabin was the target of threats.

Mrs. Rabin compared her

husband's assassination to the killing in Tel Aviv during World War II of a Jewish activist who was shot to death by Jewish extremists after being smeared as a collaborator with the Nazis.

"The night my husband was shot dead I couldn't help thinking of the analogy. There is the incident first and then there will always be someone to carry out the deed," she said.

Mr. Netanyahu, in a separate interview on CBS television, insisted he had "stood up and faced down these extremists who shouted 'Rabin is a traitor' or 'Rabin is a murderer'."

He attributed Mrs. Rabin's accusations to her grief. "When you are in deep, deep grief, you can say anything. Passions, feelings go every which way," he said.

Mrs. Rabin said her husband left no will, never dreaming he would fall victim to an assassin's bullet. She expressed the conviction that a silent Israeli majority who supports the peace process would now stand up against the climate of violence.

"There will be a very, very substantive, loud voice that will speak up for the peace process," she said.

She also said the assassination had had a positive moral impact on Israelis.

"I think by the assassination of my husband the country has gained the opposite of innocence. It was a mind opening, it was a moral opening, it was a beginning of a new era," she said.

"When a man like this becomes a victim of this climate then all of us that believe in

peace, that believe in the peace process must stop being silent about it," she said.

In an interview with Israel Radio, Mrs. Rabin also recalled prophetic threats shouted by taunters promising to kill her and her husband in the Kings of Israel Square in downtown Tel Aviv where Mr. Rabin was indeed gunned down last Saturday night.

She described her husband as being dogged by Jewish extremists who would "outside the prime minister's house jeering at him for making peace with the Palestinians."

"For weeks and weeks, every week they would come and wait for him and shout at him 'traitor, murderer,' she said.

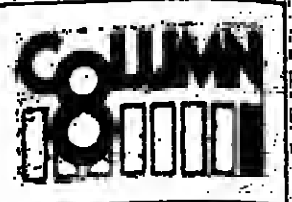
"Last Friday, when I got home at 3 o'clock," she added, "they said to me 'just wait. A year from now, in the Kings of Israel Square we'll kill you both. There you will be like Mussolini and his mistress. That's the way you will be in Kings of Israel Square'."

Mrs. Rabin told the radio interviewer that she sensed a new mood in Israel for peace after her husband's tragic death.

"I don't think the hope for peace died with him. I think the reverse is the truth," she said.

She noted that Mr. Rabin sang a song of peace at a rally attended by 100,000 just before he was shot.

"I already hear it from every quarter, people are saying that song cannot be stopped," she said. "We will all continue, we (and) the young people, the children."



Circumcised immigrant takes Rabin's name

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A new Jewish immigrant has adopted the name of Israel's assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin under a religious rite after undergoing circumcision. The Jerusalem Post said Tuesday that Russian immigrant Luzay Alexander, 27, asked that his name be changed when the doctor asked him to recite the "Kiddush" in which the name of the circumcised man is stated. "Yitzhak will continue to live in Israel," he said in halting Hebrew, stirring the small crowd at the ceremony. Monday in the northern town of Safed, on Rabin's birthday, the paper reported, Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, meanwhile, plans to rename Kings of Israel Square, where Rabin was assassinated at a peace rally Saturday, after the slain premier, the paper said.

Prince Philip honours cartoonist

WELLINGTON (R) — Britain's Prince Philip was surprised to find himself on show Tuesday when he opened an exhibition of cartoons by New Zealander Sir David Low, considered among the greatest exponents of his art this century. The prince paused in front of a life-sized cartoon Sir David drew of him in 1953 after the coronation of his wife, Queen Elizabeth, and said: "Where on earth did that come from?" Curator of the exhibition Susan Foster said Prince Philip told her he did not recall sitting for Sir David at the time. Sir David, with his scathing and unrelenting commentary, was among the first and most incisive critics of the rise of European fascism in the 1930s. His work was syndicated worldwide to more than 200 newspapers and magazines, and at his height in the 1950s he was better paid than his editors. "He is probably the most important and significant cartoonist of this century," New Zealand's current leading cartoonist Tom Scott told Reuters.

China's population to hit 1.214 billion in 1995

BEIJING (AFP) — China's population is expected to hit 1.214 billion this year, 13 million less than originally forecast for the end of the 1990-95 five year plan, according to the state family planning commission. Delegates to a national conference on population which ended Monday said the shortfall had been achieved during a period when the number of women of child-bearing age was at a peak, the official news agency Xinhua reported Tuesday. But it also quoted delegates as warning that the current low birth rate was unstable and could only be maintained by strict adherence to China's so-called "one-child family" policy. In the late 1980s, the government targeted a population of 1.2 billion by the year 2000, but that figure was reached in February, and the target has been revised to 1.294 billion. The country's main problem results from its enormous population base, and current U.N. projections estimate that China's population will level out at around 1.6 billion by the middle of the next century. The under-reporting of births by local officials fearful of exceeding state-set quotas remains a serious problem, as does a growing disparity in the sex-ratio — resulting from a traditional preference for sons.

Kuwaiti MPs demand clear stand on Arab reconciliation

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti lawmakers complaining of "chaos" in foreign policy on Tuesday accused the government of being divided over whether to heal a rift with "pro-Iraq" states.

Deputies at the chamber's weekly session said they wanted the government to stop dithering about whether or not to mend a five-year breach with countries such as Jordan over their sympathy with Iraq during its 1990-91 occupation.

"The government must unify its position," former Trade and Industry Minister Abdullah Al Hajeri told reporters.

"We must end this chaos," said deputy Ahmad Al Khatib.

"There is a contradiction between you and the prime minister," Mr. Khatib said, looking across the assembly benches at Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

"One day you meet the Jordanian foreign minister and the next day (the Kuwaiti) prime minister says we should not yet have relations with Jordan," the opposition veteran said.

He was referring to a period in October when Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah ruled out an early resumption of ties with Jordan within a few

days of a meeting between Sheikh Sabah and Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabriti.

Diplomats said the episode was one of several instances this year in which Kuwait appeared to be sending mixed signals on whether it wanted to mend fences with Jordan, Yemen, Tunisia, Algeria and Sudan.

Sheikh Sabah has often spoken in favour of a gradual detente with Amman, provided it calls on Iraq to comply with all Gulf war ceasefire terms. Sheikh Saad has spoken strongly against any improvement of ties with "pro-Iraq" states for the time being.

Sheikh Sabah has met Mr. Kabriti on several occasions this year in one of several signs of a warming in relations.

Some deputies said they also wanted Kuwait to stop what one called a "superpower" style of Arab diplomacy that might further alienate "pro-Iraq" states and lead outsiders to conclude Kuwait was in some way responsible for sanctions against Baghdad.

"We want the other countries to come and kiss our hands. For what? Till when?" Mr. Khatib said. "Sometimes the Kuwaiti attitude is expressed in very

strong language, as if to say we are responsible for the embargo," said opposition deputy Abdullah Al Nibari.

Mr. Khatib said he was dismayed by the surprise evident among Kuwaiti officials at a call last month of United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan for lifting sanctions against Iraq and Arab reconciliation.

The call was the clearest sign yet that opinion in parts of the Gulf is starting to favour lifting sanctions against Iraq.

Mr. Khatib said the surprise showed that despite the trauma of Iraq's 1990 invasion Kuwait had still not learned to predict regional political trends. This was dangerous because such a failing had helped make possible the invasion "catastrophe."

Sheikh Sabah replied the government was united.

"We do not have two cabinets," he said. "We know we are not the United States. We are a Third World country. We have to know our size. We must not feel we are a superpower."

"I assure Dr. Khatib that we are aware of changes and developments in the region's equilibrium and we shall keep a watchful eye on emerging developments."

Israeli defaces Goldstein tomb in Hebron

HEBRON (Agencies) — An Israeli poured black ink over the grave of Hebron killer Baruch Goldstein, the Jewish settler who massacred at least 30 Muslims at prayer, in a public protest Tuesday at the murder of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"This grave, so well looked after, is a disgrace," Abraham Pesco, an Israeli, said as he carried out his act of public vandalism.

"The time has come to do something against right-wing fanatics and other friends of Goldstein which are celebrating the assassination of Rabin," the protester said.

"I've been crying for the last three days. If we had acted more firmly against the extremists, perhaps we would have prevented the crime," he said before television cameras.

Goldstein was himself killed by the crowd after moving down Muslim worshippers in Hebron's Ibrahimi Mosque on Feb. 25, 1994. He belonged to the anti-Arab group Kach, which has since been outlawed.

Yigal Amir, who shot dead Mr. Rabin at a Tel Aviv peace rally on Saturday, belonged to a movement linked to Kach.

A witness said the man splattered black paint on the tomb of Goldstein and broke memorial lamps at the grave, a pilgrimage site for militant Jews at Kiryat Arba settlement near Hebron in the West Bank, said George Kilianis, a reporter for Greece's Star television.

"An Israeli man came close and said follow me... we went to the grave of Goldstein. He paced and then he just took out a bottle of black paint and started spreading it over the grave and smashed the lamps," Mr. Kilianis said. He said, "It's unbelievable what's happening here. I'm tired of this country. I can't believe that these people are killing their own prime minister."

Mr. Kilianis said the man, dressed in red jeans, gray T-shirt and tennis shoes and wearing a blue cap, then walked away.

Two male settlers had come to the grave and watched as the man defaced it. Mr. Kilianis said he believed they stood idly by because of the presence of his camera crew.

Afterwards Mr. Kilianis said he asked one of the settlers what he thought of the act.

"The bastard should die," Mr. Kilianis quoted one settler as saying.

Some Kiryat Arba residents have publicly welcomed the killing of Mr. Rabin.

Hamas says PLO arrests jeopardise dialogue

GAZA (R) — The militant Islamic Hamas movement said on Tuesday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was jeopardising reconciliation efforts between the two sides by ordering a crackdown on the group's activists in Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip.

Hamas said in a statement issued in Gaza that Palestinian police have arrested several activists and were hunting others.

"We call on the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to put an end to the collective arrest campaign against the sons of our movement, and to stop interrogation and torture," the statement said.

But a senior PLO security official said that only one Hamas activist was detained three days ago on suspicion of planning to carry out a suicide attack against Israel.

"The intelligence arrested three days ago a youth belonging to Hamas movement who planned to carry out a suicide attack," he told Reuters. "We have an understanding with Hamas leaders that they would halt attacks against Israelis throughout the duration of the dialogue."

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, hoping to turn Hamas violent opposition to his peace moves with Israel into political channels, have been holding reconciliation talks with the militant group.

Rabbani ready to step down, but sets terms

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani announced Tuesday that he is willing to step down, but attached a number of conditions to his eventual resignation.

"Any day a commission or an individual is ready to take over, we are ready to hand over power," the Afghan head of state said, during a two-hour speech to government leaders.

"The day when power is transferred and the burden is placed on somebody else's shoulders will be a day of celebration for me," he said.

Mr. Rabbani, whose two-year term expired in December, said several conditions would have to be satisfied before he could dissolve his nearly three-year-old administration.

"The first condition is a cessation of hostilities within the country," he said in a reference to an attempt by the Taliban militia to oust his Tajik-dominated government.

Thousands of Taliban fighters have been besieging the capital Kabul for the past month after capturing large swathes of the country in the past year.

Mr. Rabbani accused the Taliban, made up mainly of members of Afghanistan's ethnic Pashtun community, of seeking to "eliminate" the various factions which carried out the "jihad," or holy war, against the Soviet Union.

In a clear reference to Pakistan, which the government accuses of backing the

Talibans, Mr. Rabbani called for an end to foreign interference in Afghanistan's affairs. The Afghan president also said elections would have to be held within one year of his handing over power to an as yet to be named individual or interim body.

Mr. Rabbani has stated his willingness to step down previously but the country's warring factions have been unable to agree on a successor.

Mr. Rabbani, speaking just hours after a Taliban rocket attack on Kabul left two people dead and one wounded, called on the United Nations and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference to redouble their efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Afghan crisis.

He said a delegation headed by a senior government leader, Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, would pursue talks with the opposition aimed at reaching agreement on a handover of power and other issues.

"We urge the opposition to cooperate with us in arranging for a transfer of power," Mr. Rabbani said.

Mr. Rabbani also denied Pakistani charges that the Afghan government was involved in a series of recent bombings in the Pakistani city of Peshawar.

In Tehran, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto denied any rivalry with Iran for influence in Afghanistan, but the two countries are divided over the recognition of Mr. Rabbani.